

This is

# Champaign County









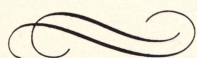








THIS IS  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



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## Foreword

The League of Women Voters of Champaign County, a non-partisan organization, has compiled and edited this booklet as a public service with the hope that it will stimulate citizens to take an active, informed interest in county affairs and to vote with knowledge and understanding. The material for this study has been gathered from many of the people who are working to make this county a good place in which to live: officials of the cities and villages, superintendents of schools, heads of public health and welfare agencies, law enforcement and protection officers, and public relations officers. The League is very much indebted to them for their patient assistance to those League members who assembled the information presented here. The booklet represents the combined efforts of many members of the League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Nelson J. Leonard, President,  
League of Women Voters  
of Champaign County



lying close to the only road from the east, attracted migrating families. The last part of the county to be settled was the Sangamon Timber to the west of the Big Grove; Isaac Busey, a resident of Urbana from 1830, was the first to enter claim to lands in the Mahomet area in 1832. Most of these people squatted on the land for some time before buying it from the government at \$1.25 an acre. By 1833 there were 111 known taxpayers in the county area, clustered in the three settlements: Salt Fork (St. Joseph, Sidney, and Homer) with thirty-five; Big Grove (Urbana) with forty-six; and Sangamon (Mahomet to Fisher along the river) with six. Lynn Grove, in Sidney township, and Sadorus Grove had one taxpayer each, and there were twenty-two "isolated" residents.

### **Champaign County Created**

The bill to form Champaign County out of Vermilion County was passed by the state legislature on February 20, 1833, chiefly through the efforts of Representative J. S. Vance, who came from Urbana in Champaign County, Ohio. He named both county and county seat from his place of origin, and on June 21 of 1833 the center of justice for the county was called Urbana.

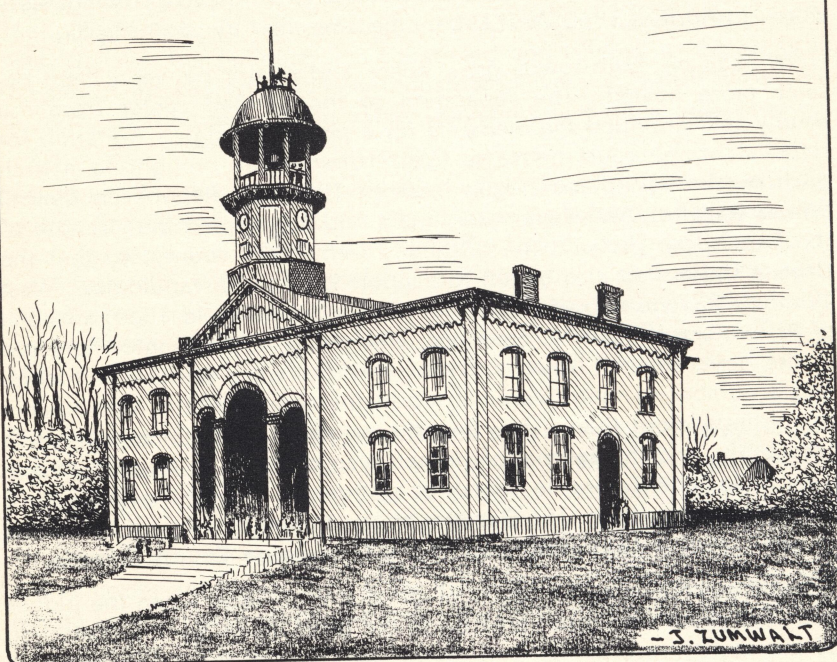
The first officers of the new county were three county commissioners and a sheriff, who constituted a "county commissioners' court". At their first regular meeting on June 3, 1833, they recommended a surveyor and a recorder to the governor for appointment. They also designated Salt Fork Settlement an election precinct and appointed three judges of election for Big Grove precinct. The first term of the circuit court held in Urbana was in April of 1834, but not until January of 1836 did the commissioners order that a temporary court house be built. The structure was never completed; it was soon abandoned, and court continued to be held in homes or in the open air. On March 7, 1836, the commissioners chose twenty-one township trustees and a county school commissioner. Schools were established in all the settlements from the earliest years. As overseers of the poor, the three commissioners indentured orphaned or pauper children, while adult paupers were turned over to the lowest bidder for board and work.

By 1838 need was felt for a jail, and in 1840 a two-story building was formally accepted. In that year another contract was let for a court house which by 1841 was in use by the circuit court, though not by the county court.

Under the second state constitution of 1848, and until 1860, county business was conducted by the county court, consisting of the county judge and two assistant judges, each selected for four years. These gentlemen ordered the construction of a more elaborate court house of brick and wood, with a bell-tower, costing \$2744, compared to \$340 for the previous one.



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S COURT HOUSE 1859-1901



In 1852 the county's first newspaper, the Democratic weekly **Urbana Union**, began publication, and the first county fair was held in the court house yard. At this time Homer and Middletown (Mahomet) were the only other villages in the county. Sidney was platted, but had no post office. At Homer there had existed a widely-patronized store since before 1840, a rival to the one in Urbana.

The population of the county grew slowly until 1853, when the Illinois Central Railroad, being built between Chicago and Cairo, came into the area. The chief engineer was persuaded to bring the line through Urbana rather than Danville, but the line was routed a mile to the west, where the railroad chose an eighty-acre site and caused it to be condemned. It was surveyed for a town in 1853 and the plat was recorded in Chicago in 1855. The town was almost called Rantoul, but the railroad authorities insisted on Urbana, so the name Rantoul was applied to Mink Grove to the north.



## West Urbana

Some Urbana residents moved to "West Urbana" to be near the railway, but many people felt that this location was too marshy for comfort or health. The first house and a hotel were built there in the winter of 1853-1854, but not until 1856 did the "New Town" have its own grocery store. In April of 1860 West Urbana became the City of Champaign.

From 1854 on, both towns grew apace and rivalry between them became more heated. The separation of the railroad center from the county seat provided the elements for a power struggle. Agitation for removal of the court house to West Urbana was brought to a high pitch by the newspaper begun there in 1858, the Republican **Central Illinois Gazette**. Anti-slavery sentiment had augmented the strength of the Republican party in the originally Democratic county, so that the **Urbana Union** had also begun to support Republican candidates. West Urbana's **Gazette** strongly backed Lincoln's campaign in 1860, and one of its owners, William A. Stoddard, was called to Washington to serve in the government. Newspapers of that era were seldom profitable, and a number of them were started in the county which were unable to continue more than a few months or years. They changed hands frequently, and the **Journal** of Homer even changed its location to Sidney, Philo, and Tolono in search of patronage, finally moving out of the county altogether. The **Gazette**, however, combined with the **Union** in 1862, and in 1869 continued as the **Champaign County Gazette**.

The county court was the center of contention in 1859 when the judges had "fire proof additions" built on to the court house for the protection of the county records, as well as for the comfort and convenience of the county officers. West Urbana, which had been incorporated as a village in 1857, stirred up a feeling around the county that a considerable over-spending of the original allocation of funds for the court house had been unnecessary. Urbana remained the county seat, but the commissioner form of government was overthrown at the November election of 1859, and the township organization was chosen by the voters. The following January 9, the county court appointed a committee which divided the county into 15 townships. On April 3, 1860, the first election for township officers was held in each town, and on April 20, the first board of supervisors met. Over the years the townships were gradually subdivided until there are now thirty in Champaign County. Despite attempts to combine the twin cities under one government, they have remained separate. A merger was voted on in 1911 and again in 1953, but was decisively defeated in both cities both times.

The coming of the railroads after 1854, of which the Wabash about 1855 was the earliest east-west road, brought civilization to the county, as well as a rapid increase in population and property values. Social in-



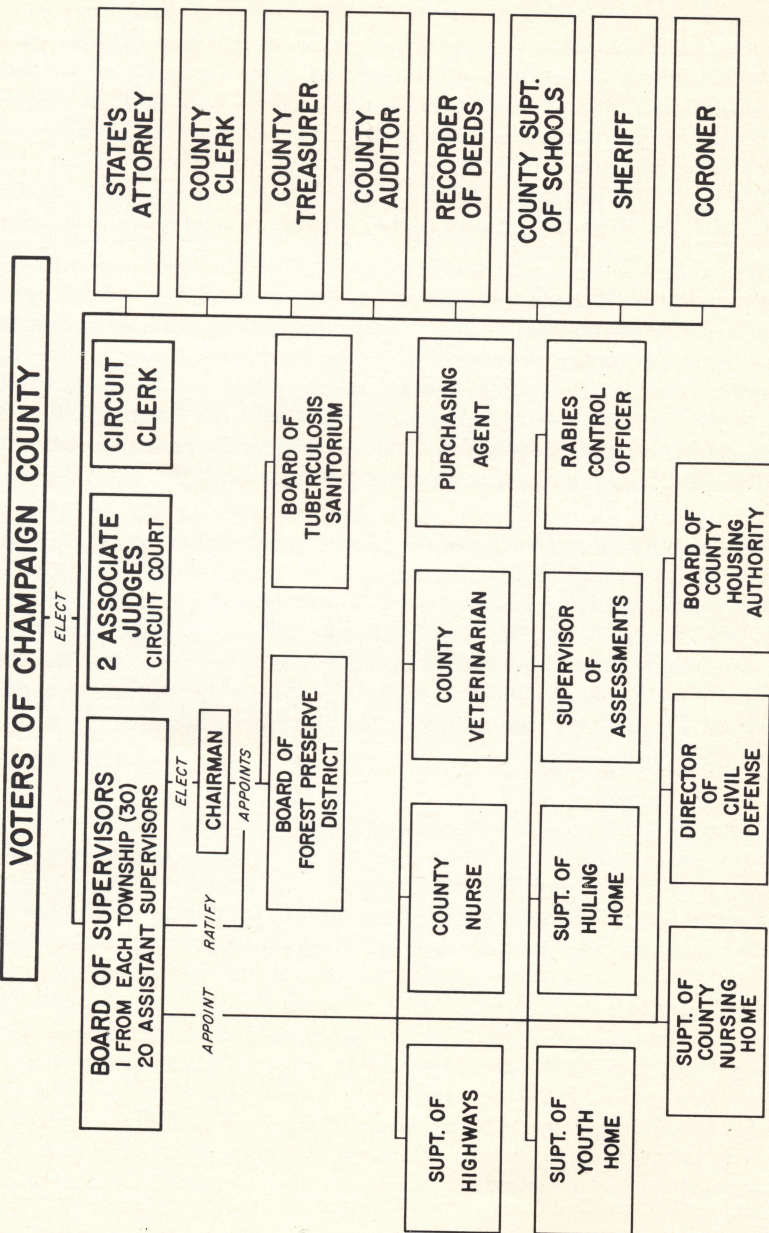
stitutions multiplied, one of note being the Seminary begun in Urbana in 1854, which by 1858 had 260 students attending it. In 1859 it became a public school, and another seminary was discussed, this time to be placed between the two towns in order to avoid dispute. In June 1860, a meeting was held which resulted in the financing of an "Urbana and Champaign Institute", whose cornerstone was laid on August 6, 1861. Unfortunately the coming of the Civil War halted the project. After the war the building was completed and offered to the state as the site of the projected Illinois Industrial University, which it became in 1867. In 1885 the present name, University of Illinois, was adopted.

Steady social and economic progress has marked the more recent history of Champaign County, yet its political organization has remained much the same as it was in 1860, until the reorganization of the county court system in 1964. The present court house was dedicated in 1901; a three-story addition was made in 1936, and the County Office Building or Annex was opened in 1957. A new sheriff's office was built in 1960 and renovations are presently under way in the main building.

The development of the villages occurred slowly, first as railway depots, then as shopping centers for the still predominantly rural population. The presence of the University of Illinois and the county seat, as well as the proximity of Champaign Technical Training Center have kept the Champaign-Urbana metropolitan area the chief one of the county, economically and politically, while the system of surfaced roads, laid out on section lines, has helped make the twin cities a center of activity for the entire county.



# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY GOVERNMENT





# COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## County Officials

Our county government is inherited from the English system through the county organizations of our colonial and territorial periods. Today a county of Illinois is a division of the state and an administrative arm of the state for such functions as taxation, the administration of justice and of relief, record keeping, and provision for travel, education, and health. A county has no inherent powers except those conferred by the state constitution and statutes. Some functions are entirely local, such as licensing certain businesses; some are optional, such as zoning; some serve other local governmental units, such as the collection of taxes. Most counties of Illinois, including Champaign County, have a township form of government.

### The Board of Supervisors

#### **Membership**

Champaign County has as its governing body a board of supervisors as provided by statute for all counties in Illinois having township organization. The board of supervisors, or county board, consists of supervisors and assistant supervisors elected by townships. One supervisor is elected from each of the thirty townships. Assistant supervisors are elected from the three most populous townships, one for each approximately 5000 inhabitants. There are ten from the Township of the City of Champaign, six from Cunningham Township, which is the city of Urbana, and four from Rantoul Township. The only duty of the assistant supervisors is to serve as members of the county board.

Any legal resident of voting age is eligible to be a candidate for the board and must be nominated by a political party. Election is on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years for four-year terms. To assure continuity, half the members are chosen at each election. Compensation is set by the board and is paid by the county, but it is limited by statute to \$15 a day and ten cents a mile for travel.

#### **Meetings**

The board of supervisors meets to organize on the fourth Tuesday in April of each year. It is required by law to meet on the second Monday in June and the second Tuesday in September. A recessed session of the September meeting is held in November. The board also meets on the first Tuesday in December and the first Tuesday in March. Special meet-



ings may be called by written request of at least one third of the members. Meetings are held in the annex of the court house at ten o'clock in the morning and are open to the public. Minutes of all board meetings are open for inspection by the public in the office of the county clerk.

### **Functions and Powers**

The functions of the board of supervisors are primarily administrative but include limited legislative and regulatory powers. There is no single administrative officer. All powers of the county not specifically assigned to other county officers are exercised by the board. It maintains the county property and manages the county funds and business within legal limits. It must provide space and appropriate supplies and printing for the offices of the county officers, courts of record, and jail; it supervises the township assessors, prepares the county budget, levies and collects the county tax, and collects taxes of all local taxing bodies. It licenses and regulates retail liquor establishments, motels, and places of amusement outside municipalities. The county board may alter township boundaries in a manner provided by law and must approve the road and bridge levy of townships. It may establish and enforce regulations for zoning and building, and for street planning and maintenance in unincorporated areas.

### **Committees**

The functions of the board are carried out by twenty-eight standing committees, some of which have power to act within certain limitations, and some only to make recommendations to the board. Standing committee members are appointed for one year by the chairman with the consent of the board. At the April meeting each year a committee on committees is appointed by the chairman to make recommendations for the committee membership. Later vacancies on committees are filled by the chairman with the consent of the board. Some committees, such as those in charge of the county institutions, meet regularly; others meet on occasion.

### **Standing Committees of the Board of Supervisors of Champaign County**

- Bond and insurance
- Cemetery and parks
- Civil defense
- Claims
- County nursing home and farm
- Election districts and judges
- Fees and salaries



Finance  
Hard road  
Huling Home and child welfare  
Jail and sheriff  
Judiciary and legislative  
Licenses — liquor, lodging and recreation  
Livestock health  
Magistrates  
Noxious weed eradication  
Plat  
Planning and zoning  
Public buildings and grounds  
Public health and rabies control  
Public officials and office equipment  
Right-of-way  
Road and bridge  
Stationery and printing  
Township motor fuel tax  
Tuberculosis sanatorium  
Ways and means  
Youth Home

### **Chairman of the Board**

At its April meeting, the board elects one of its members to serve as chairman for one year. He presides, appoints committees with the consent of the board, and signs all resolutions and contracts in the name of the board. He serves as liquor commissioner outside municipalities and receives compensation for this duty. He appoints the boards of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium District, and of the Forest Preserve District. He serves ex officio as a member of the board of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, as chairman of the board of review and, with the approval of the state housing authority, as a member of the Champaign County Housing Authority.

### **County Officers**

Candidates are nominated in party primary elections. At the general elections in November in even-numbered years of no presidential elections, the county clerk, treasurer, sheriff, and county superintendent of schools are elected. The clerk of the circuit court, state's attorney, auditor, coroner, and, in counties of more than 60,000 population, recorder of deeds are elected in years of presidential elections. All of these officers have four-year terms. Special qualifications are required only for offices of judge and superintendent of schools. The treasurer and sheriff may not succeed themselves. Most elected officers take office on the first Monday in December after their election. The only





The County Board of Supervisors at Work

exception is the superintendent of schools, who takes office on the first Monday in August after his election. Unless other provision is made, vacancies are generally filled by appointment by the board of supervisors until the next county election. Compensation of the county clerk, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, clerk of the circuit court, recorder, and auditor is fixed by the county board within statutory limits related to population. Most county officers are paid wholly by the county, and the compensation covers all duties performed for the county. For example, the treasurer who serves as collector and might serve as supervisor of assessments receives only the treasurer's salary. The state contributes a small fraction of the state's attorney's salary and pays all of the salary of the superintendent of schools.

### **Fee Officers**

Officers who perform certain services for the public, such as recording documents, giving copies of records, serving papers, holding inquests, or services for other governmental units, such as extending or collecting taxes, or handling funds, are required to charge fees, the amounts of which are specified by the Illinois General Assembly and are related to the population of the county. Fee officers are: county clerk, treasurer, recorder, clerk of the circuit court, state's attorney, and coroner. They are bonded individually by the board of supervisors. Their fees are deposited weekly, or sooner if the amount reaches \$100, with the county treasurer who keeps a separate account for each officer and pays his salary from it. For a fee officer the salary set by the board of super-



visors is a maximum, not an assured compensation. The constitution specifies that a fee officer may not receive more than he collects in fees, and any excess collected above his salary remains in the county treasury. In Champaign County fees collected are usually in excess of salary for all fee offices except the coroner's, which has for a long period collected less than the maximum allowed.

### **County Clerk**

Although no single officer is charged with administration of the county, the county clerk performs so many duties that his office is a focal point. For the county board he serves as clerk and has custody of all documents and records of the board. In the process of assessment, he verifies ownership of all real property and certifies the books to the supervisor of assessments. After the tax levies of the county and of other local taxing bodies have been adopted, he computes the rate of each tax and the total rate for each area; he extends the tax, that is, he spreads it over the district by applying the rate to each piece of property and so prepares the individual tax bills. The county clerk receives fees from other taxing bodies for extending taxes levied by them. He supervises elections. He records births and deaths, issues marriage licenses and records the certificates returned. He performs other duties as required by law and grants copies of records in his office in return for fees.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of county clerk and the unexpired term exceeds one year, a special election is called to fill the office for the rest of the term. For less than one year, the county board fills the vacancy by appointment.

### **County Treasurer**

The duties of the treasurer are to receive, keep safe, account for, and disburse funds of the county. The treasurer is ex-officio the county collector of taxes. His work as collector is separate from his duties as treasurer. In this capacity he collects property taxes not only for the county government but for all taxing districts within the county. He may be appointed treasurer for any drainage district in the county.

In interpreting the treasurer's duties the courts have put the emphasis on safekeeping. Some of Champaign County funds have been invested in short-term government securities by the joint consent of the treasurer, the auditor, and the finance committee of the county board. The board of supervisors has approved all banks in the county, and the practice is to deposit tax receipts in the banks on which the taxpayers checks are drawn. Under law, deposits may not exceed 75% of the capital stock of the bank.

The treasurer may disburse funds only on written order. In the case of county funds, direction must come from the board of supervisors or



its committees, and the auditor must approve the adequacy of funds for each expenditure and must countersign each check. For other funds the appropriate board orders disbursement, and for collecting and handling these funds of other taxing bodies the treasurer receives fees from the funds.

### **Recorder of Deeds**

The duties of the recorder are to preserve documents, to make copies of documents, to index them for accessibility, to allow the public to inspect them, and to grant copies. The fees charged for recording and for making copies depend on the length of the documents.

Most of the records relate to the ownership of property: deeds, mortgages, liens and plats. These are required by law. Other records may be deposited on request by residents of Champaign County. Microfilm copies are stored in the state Archives Building in Springfield.

### **Records in Office of Recorder of Deeds**

Required by law

- Deeds, indexed by grantor and by grantee
- Mortgages, indexed by mortgagor and by mortgagee
- Chattel mortgages to 1962
- Plats
- Financing statement since 1962
- Mechanics' liens
- Federal tax liens
- Unemployment compensation liens
- Retailers' occupational tax liens
- Liens for old age assistance and for blind assistance

Recorded by request

- Marriages and births occurring elsewhere
- Military service records, discharges and separation papers
- Articles of incorporation
- Names of farms
- Cemetery deeds

### **Auditor**

Duties of the auditor are to audit claims against the county and to recommend payment or rejection of bills, to prepare statistical records of the cost of maintenance of county institutions, to check the adequacy of each appropriate fund before approving orders for supplies, to



countersign all checks drawn on the county treasury, to keep records of all contracts of the county board, and to record the financial operations of the county.

### **Supervisor of Assessments**

The supervisor of assessments, or county assessor, is appointed to a four-year term by the county board. The office may be abolished by referendum. In the absence of an appointee, the duties fall on the treasurer ex-officio.

The duties of the supervisor of assessments are to instruct the township assessors in the assessing procedure prescribed by law, to supervise them in their work, to assess any property omitted, to correct their assessments to a uniform scale, to turn over the books to the board of review by June 1, and to serve as clerk of that board.

### **Board of Review**

The board of review of assessments is made up of the chairman of the board of supervisors, who serves as chairman ex officio, and two citizens appointed by the court to serve two-year, overlapping terms. If the chairman does not wish to serve, the county board selects one of its members to serve in his place. Two members of this board must be of the party receiving the highest number of votes in the last general election; the third must be of the party receiving the second highest number of votes. The board meets on or before the third Monday in June, receives complaints from individual owners during the month of July, and starts on August 1 to review assessments, to hold hearings on complaints, and to notify complainants of its action. It must complete its work by December 31. Further complaints may be taken to court.

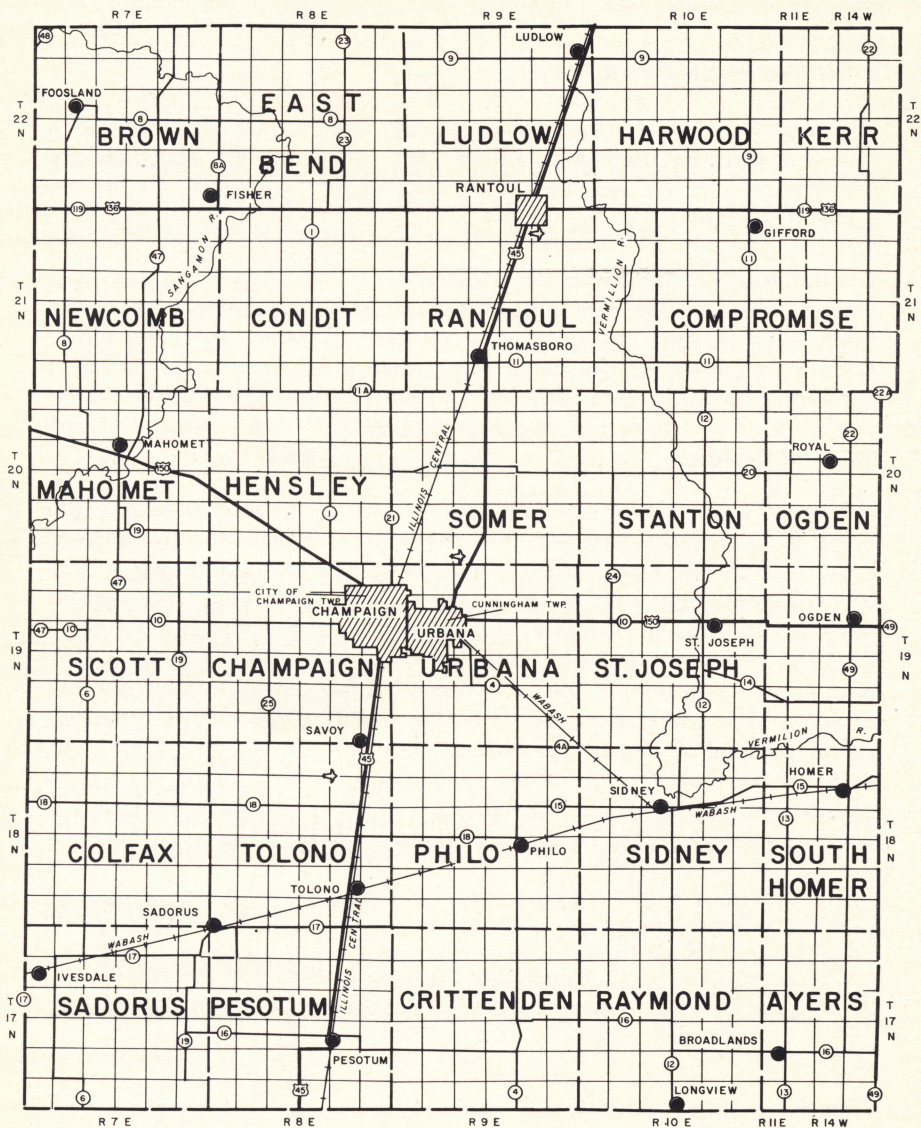
The board is authorized to assess omitted property, to revise individual assessments on complaint or on its own motion, and to equalize assessments between townships or parts thereof or parts of the county. It hears claims of exemption from taxation for assessed property and acts on them, subject to the approval of the state Department of Revenue.

### **County Housing Authority**

The board of directors of the Champaign County Housing Authority is appointed by the chairman of the county board of supervisors. It consists of five members who serve five-year terms, with one member's term expiring each year. The board appoints an executive director for a one-year term. The present executive director has served since October 1940.



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS





The Housing Authority's function is to develop and administer public low-cost rental housing in the county. A housing program is carried out, with some federal assistance, at the request of a community. Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul have the only public housing in the county.

## **The Townships**

Townships serve both as administrative units of the county and as units of local government, primarily in rural areas. In Illinois, as in most states organized under the Northwest Ordinance and succeeding federal legislation, two types of townships are found. The term "Congressional township" refers to that geographical area, six miles square, laid out in 1785 by the United States government without regard for state or county boundaries as units in the system of land survey to facilitate the description and sale of public lands. Civil or political townships, often called towns, are Congressional townships or any parts thereof which have been organized as corporate units of government. Civil townships often have the same boundaries as Congressional townships, though not necessarily.

Beginning in 1848, Illinois constitutions have made specific provisions for township government. Counties have the option of adopting either township organization, with the county governing board consisting of supervisors elected from the townships; or the commission form, with a board of three men elected at large. Champaign county has township organization.

### **Township Administration**

In its administrative capacity, the township elects a supervisor and assistant supervisors, the number determined by population, to serve on the county board. It serves as an agent of the state and county in providing welfare services, building and maintaining rural roads, assessing property, enforcing laws, preventing the spread of communicable diseases, and collecting agricultural statistics.

### **Town Meetings**

To perform local functions, Illinois townships are organized much as are the New England towns. The corporate authority is vested in those voters who attend the annual town meeting, held the first Tuesday in April. (Special sessions may be called upon the petition of two township officers and fifteen voters.) The voters present adopt the budget, pass appropriation bills, and levy taxes. They have the power to acquire property, make contracts, and fix the salaries of township officials. Their authority to pass ordinances covers limited local functions: the



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

Township	Founded	Area in Acres 1960	Population 1960 Census	Named for:	First Settler in
Ayers	Sept. 9, 1885	14,618	571	M. P. Ayers & Co. of Jacksonville, Ill., who owned land	Not known
Brown	March, 1869	22,962	1,611	William Brown, settler	1834
Champaign	April 30, 1860	19,525	2,705	Champaign County, Ohio	1841
City of Champaign *	March 2, 1920	3,995	49,583	Champaign County, Ohio	1854
Colfax	March, 1869	22,873	459	Schuyler, Golfax, Vice Pres. of U.S.	1824
Compromise	March, 1867	29,892	1,454	Settlement of dispute over boundaries	1830
Condit	March, 1867	23,044	449	First Supervisor, A. B. Condit	1828
Crittenden	Nov., 1862	23,111	433	Governor Crittenden of Kentucky, friend of 1st Supervisor	1830
Cunningham *	Dec. 5, 1928	2,604	27,294	Early resident family	1823
East Bend	April 30, 1860	22,928	721	Large bend in the Sangamon River	1st land entry, 1835
Harwood	March, 1869	23,098	519	State Representative Abel H. Harwood	1852
Hensley	Sept., 1866	21,128	478	First Supervisor A. P. Hensley	1st land entry, 1836
Kerr	April 30, 1860	14,327	231	Samuel Kerr, early settler	1831
Ludlow	April 30, 1860	22,904	4,149	James G. Ludlow of Harwood township	1856
Mahomet	April 30, 1860	21,227	2,185	Not known	1830
Newcomb	April 30, 1860	23,000	526	Ethan Newcomb, early settler	1835
Ogden	June, 1872	23,865	1,288	Early family	1834
Pesotum	April, 1863	22,428	854	An Indian Chief	1853
Philo	April 30, 1860	23,177	1,211	Philo Hale, first land owner	1853



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

Township	Founded	Area in Acres 1960	Population 1960 Census	Named for:	First Settler in
Rantoul	April 30, 1860	31,153	20,798	Robert Rantoul, Director of Illinois Central Railroad	1848
Raymond	Dec., 1867	23,128	798	First supervisor Nathaniel Raymond	1853
Sadorus	April 30, 1860	23,755	1,263	First settler, Henry Sadorus	1824
St. Joseph	April 30, 1860	23,195	1,842	Early settler, first postmaster and tavern owner	1828
Scott	Nov., 1861	22,875	972	General Winfield Scott	1835
Sidney	April 30, 1860	23,123	1,215	Sidney Davis, daughter of Joseph Davis, founder of town	1827
Somer	April 30, 1860	21,704	1,081	Early settler, Weightman Somer	1827
South Homer	April 30, 1860	17,953	1,707	Not known	1827
Stanton	March, 1862	21,844	487	Early settler family	1857
Tolono	April 30, 1860	22,707	2,190	Not known	1848
Urbana	April 30, 1860	19,730	3,490	Urbana, Ohio	1822

\* The City of Champaign Township and Cunningham Township are both city townships and thus the area changes somewhat each time a new subdivision is annexed. The area of the township from which the area is annexed also changes.

control of fencing and the regulation of domestic animals roaming at large; the establishment of pounds; the licensing of trades; and similar matters, primarily of concern to rural areas.

### Township Officials

On the same Tuesday on which the town meeting is held, there is a regular township election at which the voters elect the township officials, nominated by party caucus, who serve four-year terms. These include supervisors, clerk, assessor, highway commissioner, and three members of the township board of auditors. In counties with more than 100,000 population, the townships may elect tax collectors. Where cities and townships have the same boundaries, certain offices may be consolidated; that is, one person may serve as both city and township clerk.



The township supervisor is the chief administrative official. In addition to serving on the county board of supervisors, he acts as treasurer of township funds; he is the supervisor of general assistance, dispensing direct relief to the needy; he is the treasurer of the road and bridge fund; he is a member of the township board of auditors. Assistant supervisors have no administrative duties; they serve only as township representatives on the county board.

The township clerk keeps all records, serves as clerk to town meetings, and conducts township elections.

The township assessor determines the value of all real and personal property for tax purposes.

Where there is a township collector, he acts as a deputy for the county tax collector and retains a percentage of the taxes collected to cover his expenses.

The township highway commissioner has authority to lay out, construct, alter, and maintain township roads and bridges. He may not let contracts in excess of \$1,000 without approval of the county superintendent of highways.

The township board of auditors consists of the supervisor, clerk, and three members elected by the voters. The board examines and audits all charges against the township, and the accounts of the township officials. Prior to the annual town meeting it prepares the budget and the appropriation ordinance. The members of the board are paid on a per diem basis.

### **Champaign County Townships**

Champaign county is organized into thirty civil townships. Cunningham township is identical in area with the city of Urbana; the township of the City of Champaign is identical in area with the city of Champaign. All other townships in the county include some rural areas. Because Cunningham and the City of Champaign townships are within the city limits, they have no highway commissioners. The functions usually handled by these officials are left to the city street departments. In these two townships the city clerk serves as township clerk. There are no collectors in Champaign county townships.

### **The Changing Role of Townships**

As Illinois has become more urbanized and as transportation has improved, the role of the townships has changed. The functions of welfare (except for direct relief) and road building have been assumed



almost entirely by larger units of government. The administration of direct relief to the destitute and the assessment of property for tax purposes are now the township's principal duties.

Under the constitution, townships may be abolished and the county re-organized under the commission form of government by referendum, as provided by statutory law. In addition, any township lying wholly within a city of 50,000 or more may by popular vote transfer all its powers to the county board.

## Political Party Organization

The key political workers in a county are the precinct committeemen of each party. Champaign County is divided into 107 precincts. At the statewide primary elections every two years, a committeeman for each party is elected in each precinct. A committeeman's function is to get out the vote in his precinct for his party's candidates. He distributes information concerning registration and candidates; supplies transportation and baby sitters on election day when needed; recommends election judges; and may appoint poll watchers.

The committeemen of a party comprise the county central committee. The central committee holds a county convention, on a specified date following the primary, to transact business and to elect an executive committee consisting of a chairman and other officers. Each committeeman at the convention has one vote for each ballot cast for his party in his precinct at the preceding primary. This procedure assures fair representation for precincts of unequal size.

It is the county chairman's responsibility to direct the election campaigns for his party. The chairman of the party which won the last gubernatorial election wields considerable power through granting "patronage" jobs to party members. Such jobs are awarded by the state to applicants recommended by the county chairman and, usually, by the applicant's precinct committeeman.



# TAXES AND FINANCES

## Income and Budget

Revenue for carrying on the functions of the government of Champaign County comes from three sources: fees, assessments, and non-property taxes; state and federal aid; property taxes.

### **Fees, Assessments, and Non-property Taxes**

The greatest single source of revenue for the operation of the county governmental activities (as opposed to other units within the county) is fees earned by fee officers. Each year the fees exceed the fee officers' salaries by some half million dollars. Most of this is earned by the county treasurer's office for services to other taxing bodies. Other fees are collected for such things as copies of birth or marriage certificates, and for recording mortgages, real estate sales, and similar services.

Municipalities, townships, and the county may license certain occupations, businesses, and such property as dogs and bicycles. These are not important sources of income, being mostly regulatory in nature.

Local governments may make assessments for special purposes such as building new streets, laying sewers, or installing street lights. Assessment is based on benefit to the property owner rather than on property values.

Special non-property taxes may also be levied by municipalities. An example is the utility tax which may be levied up to 5 per cent on utilities provided by privately owned companies supplying residents with water, electricity, gas, telephone, and telegraph service. The tax is added to the consumer's bill, collected by the utility companies, and then turned over to the city. Champaign levies a utility tax of 2.75 per cent and Urbana levies one of 2 per cent.

Municipalities may also assess a .5 per cent occupational excise tax, commonly called the sales tax which is collected by the state and returned to the municipalities. This money becomes part of the general corporate fund.

The larger communities of the county also receive income from parking meters. Other receipts come from fines and forfeitures.



## **State and Federal aid**

Both the state and federal governments make grants to the county for specific purposes. Only schools receive appreciable amounts in this way, but varying amounts are also received for hospital construction, health and welfare, and public works such as roads. The state returns part of the tax collected on motor fuels. The amount returned is based on population and must be used in building and maintaining streets, roads, and bridges.

## **Property tax**

The property tax is the most important source of revenue for all local governments. A portion of the property tax is levied for the county's operation and this brings in at least a quarter of a million dollars a year.

The state constitution limits the tax which a county may levy to 75 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. There is a limit on county indebtedness of 5% of the assessed valuation within any one governmental unit. Some units are limited to less.

## **Taxing Districts**

A taxing district is a governmental unit created by state law and authorized to levy taxes and provide special services. Since there is a limit set by law on the rate of any one tax on real or personal property, new districts are often formed to provide special services when an old district is taxed or bonded to or near its limit. For example, a drainage district with need of expansion may set up a new and separate district to take care of the new area when its present tax rate cannot be raised.

Thus in Champaign County there are over 200 separate taxing units with distinct boards and tax rates for schools, roads, health services, parks, forest preserves, drainage and fire protection, as well as for the operation of the county, townships, and municipalities.

A statement of the various taxes and their rates for a piece of property is included with the tax bill. All county taxes are based on property valuation except the rural drainage districts which base their charge on the benefit of the service to the property. For all districts, with the exception of some drainage districts, the county clerk and the county treasurer perform administrative duties and receive fees paid by the districts.



## **County Budget**

A tentative budget is developed each year from proposals of each of the committees of the county board responsible for its institutions and from each taxing unit of the county government. In the course of preparation it is reviewed by the committees of the county board on salaries and supplies, is organized by the county auditor, and is then prepared for recommendation to the county board by the ways and means committee. Copies of the proposed budget are available to the public from the office of the auditor. The budget is presented to the board of supervisors at its September meeting and is acted upon at the meeting in November. The fiscal year begins December 1.

The budget is required by law to show receipts and expenditures for the latest complete fiscal year, those estimated for the current year, and those proposed for the forthcoming year.

## **County Tax Levy**

The difference between expenditures proposed in the budget and revenue in hand or expected from sources other than taxes is the amount of the tax levy. At the time the board of supervisors acts on the budget, it also acts on the proposed tax levy which raises the funds, and passes an appropriation ordinance which authorizes the expenditures specified in the budget. The tax levy voted in November is collected the following spring or summer. Until that time funds from the previous tax levy are drawn on. This overlapping of the fiscal year with the tax cycle insures that much of the money represented in the budget is in hand when the budget is adopted.

## **Accounting and Auditing**

Champaign County has no bonded indebtedness and is able to take advantage of cash discounts for purchases and contracts. In 1963 a purchasing agent to serve all units was employed by the board of supervisors. In 1964 an IBM machine was leased especially for voters' registration, assessment records, tax computations, and budgetary accounts. A continuous audit is maintained, and an independent audit is filed yearly with the state auditor of public accounts.



# The Property Tax Cycle

In Illinois most of the cost of local government is borne by taxes on personal and real property. Personal property is all tangible property not attached to the land, such as autos, furniture, livestock, factory inventories, and such intangible property as stocks, bonds and notes.

Real property consists of land and all buildings and improvements on the land. The process of assessing and collecting these taxes is a complicated and lengthy one, involving the state, county, township, and all local governmental units over a period of approximately two years.

The administration of the property tax cycle is largely determined by statutes passed by the state legislature. The bill we receive in May is the result of the visit of the tax assessor some fourteen months earlier.

The tax bill of May, 1964, is used here as an example. The cycle began in November, 1962.

## **November and December, 1962**

The county clerk prepares the real property assessment books. He copies into large journals the description or index code number for each parcel of land or lots. These books, along with the necessary forms for the assessment process, are turned over to the supervisor of assessments by January 1st.

The supervisor of assessments meets with all the township assessors some time before January 1st. He instructs them in the laws and rules governing assessments, stressing any changes which have been made during the past year.

## **January to June, 1963**

All real property must be reassessed every four years — 1963, 1967, and so on. In other than the quadrennial years, only new buildings, additions or improvements to old buildings, subdivided land, and sale parcels are assessed.

Real property is assessed by the township assessors. The assessor in townships other than the city townships is accompanied by a deputy from the office of the supervisor of assessments. This assures more uniform assessment throughout the county.



Before April 1 the county clerk supplies to the supervisor of assessments the necessary books and forms for the assessment of personal property. During April the assessments are made and the supervisor receives from each taxpayer a list of all personal property in his possession as of April 1st. Personal property is assessed annually.

On June 1 the assessors turn their books over to the supervisor of assessments for review.

In quadrennial years the supervisor of assessments supplies to the State Department of Revenue a preliminary estimate of the total amount of property for each assessment district. The Department of Revenue compares these assessed values with sample sales prices in the county and certifies to the county an equalization factor or "multiplier". The department requires that all property in all counties be assessed at 55% of its true value. State law requires that property be assessed at 100% of true value, but in practice the 55% figure has been used. If it is determined that this has been done, the multiplier for each county will be 1.000. On the other hand, if the total assessed valuation in any county is below 55%, a figure greater than one will be given that county to "equalize" the assessments in all counties. Each assessment in the county must then be multiplied by this figure. This is done to equalize assessments among counties in order that state aid such as school aid can be apportioned fairly according to a county's need. In 1963 Champaign County was given a multiplier of 1.0638. This must be used each year until the next quadrennial assessment, 1967.

### **July 10, 1963**

On or before this date the supervisor of assessments is required to publish in a local newspaper legal notices of the new assessment values. Personal property values are published each year; only new or changed real property assessments are published in years other than the quadrennial assessment years.

### **July 1 - August 1, 1963**

The Board of Review, which must meet to organize on or before the third Monday in June, hears complaints from taxpayers about the valuations of their real and personal property. This is the only period when such complaints can be made.

The board may also, at its own discretion, review, revise, correct, and equalize individual valuations. It is empowered to apply a multiplier to an individual township in the county if it feels that township is assessed below the level of the rest of the county.



## December 31, 1963

By this date the Board of Review delivers the tax books back to the county clerk. Each of the taxing districts in the county has passed its tax levy and certified this levy to the county clerk.

## January 1 - May 1, 1964

Beginning in January, 1964, the county clerk figures the tax rate for each local taxing district. To do this he first multiplies each assessment by the multiplier. Then he adds all the corrected assessed valuations of all property within the boundaries of each taxing district. Finally, the tax rate is determined by dividing the levy of each taxing district by its total assessed valuation.

$$\frac{\text{tax levy}}{\text{total assessed value of property}} = \text{tax rate}$$

The county clerk then combines all the tax rates applicable to each piece of property, determining the total tax rate. The assessed valuation of each real estate parcel (real property) and each declaration of personal property is multiplied (extended) by the proper rate.

Example: Citizen A lives within the corporate limits of the Village of Mahomet (Code 15-2). He owns a house and lot assessed at \$10,000 and personal property assessed at \$1,500. His total taxes were as follows:

Taxing District	Tax Rate in cents per dollar of assessed valuation
County	.1118
Forest Preserve	.0226
Town(ship)	.1578
Road & Bridge	.0800
Permanent Road	.1670
Mahomet Corporation	.5132
Corn Belt Fire Protection District	.0910
Unit 3 School District	1.9480
	<hr/>
Total	3.0914

Thus Citizen A paid \$10,000 x .030914 or \$309.14 in real property taxes and \$1,500 x .030914 or \$46.37 in personal property taxes.



When the county clerk has finished extending the taxes, he turns the books over to the county collector. In Champaign County the county treasurer is also the collector. The county collector makes out the tax bills and mails them to the taxpayers on or about May 1.

#### **June 1, 1964**

On this date all unpaid personal property taxes become delinquent.

The county clerk, after receiving a list of the delinquent personal property taxes, is empowered to prepare summonses which are served by the sheriff. The taxpayer then has thirty days to pay the taxes plus costs and interest. If they are not paid within the thirty day period, a judgment will be entered in court. This automatically becomes a lien on any property the taxpayer now owns or acquires in the future.

The taxpayer has the choice of paying his real property tax in one or two installments. First installments not paid by June 1st are also delinquent.

#### **September 1, 1964**

On this date all second installments on real property not paid become delinquent.

Collection of delinquent real estate taxes differs from the collection of delinquent personal property taxes. About the fifteenth of September the collector publishes a list of unpaid taxes. Ten days later a judgment may be obtained against such property. A week later a tax sale may be held in which the bidder offering the lowest interest rate pays the delinquent taxes. The taxpayer then has three years in which to pay the back taxes and costs before the sale becomes final and the property transferred to the tax sale buyer. In most cases the owner pays the back taxes and interest.

\* \* \* \* \*

Champaign County has an excellent record of tax collections, collecting 99% of all real property taxes and 96% of all personal property taxes. After the first collections made on June 1, 1964, the collector begins paying funds to the various taxing units in accordance with the levies certified by them to the county clerk, deducting 2% as his fee. By the third Monday in December, 1964, the collector has paid all the levies and made his final report to the county board of supervisors.



# The Administration of Justice

On January 1, 1964, the reorganization of the Illinois court system authorized by the Judicial Amendment to the state constitution, passed in November, 1962, went into effect. Its organization may change, subject to Illinois Supreme Court rulings or further legislation necessary to complete the reorganization, but one of its purposes was to make the circuit courts the general courts of unlimited jurisdiction.

## **Circuit Courts**

Champaign County is one of the six counties comprising the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The circuit, as a whole, elects four circuit judges for six-year terms. One of these sits as presiding judge in Champaign county. The county also has the services of at least one other circuit judge and it has, in addition, two associate judges. Associate judges are elected by the county in which they sit. Salaries are set by the state legislature and are paid by the state. Each county has a circuit clerk who, in Champaign county, is elected for a term of four years. He is paid by the county. Each circuit judge has one court reporter, and each associate judge is entitled to a court reporter appointed by the chief judge of the circuit.

## **Circuit Court Magistrates**

On January 1, 1964, all justices of the peace and police magistrates became circuit court magistrates for the balance of their elected terms. By April, 1965, all magistrates will be appointed by the circuit judges and will serve at the judges' pleasure. The Sixth Judicial Circuit will be entitled to seven magistrates, three of whom will probably be in Champaign county. The criteria for appointment will be that the appointee be a lawyer, or that he was serving as a magistrate or justice of the peace on January 1, 1964. If there are no attorneys or magistrates available in a county, a lay person may be appointed.

Matters which the magistrates may hear are limited by legislation and by court rule. Primarily they handle traffic violations and certain municipal law violations where court appearance is required. They hear small claims cases, conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and arraign persons charged with misdemeanors for whom they may sometimes hear evidence and decide upon probation. Magistrates preside over a traffic court in Urbana; another may be established in Rantoul.

## **Probation Officers**

Champaign county has one chief probation officer and four assistant officers, all of whom are paid by the county and appointed by the court.







## **State's Attorney**

The state's attorney is the chief prosecuting officer of the state within a county and represents the people in all criminal and civil actions initiated in the county. He has broad powers of inquiry and investigation.

He submits evidence to the grand jury which then decides whether or not an indictment should be returned. He is also legal advisor to the county board of supervisors and all county officers, and as such he represents them in any court action. In Champaign county his position is a full-time one.

The state's attorney is elected every four years in a county-wide election. His office is a fee office; in Champaign county, however, all fines and costs collected by his office are turned over to the county treasurer to be placed in a special account from which disbursements for salaries and operating expenses of the office are made.

The county board of supervisors determines the number and salaries of assistant state's attorneys, but they are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the state's attorney. In 1964 the Champaign county state's attorney had four full-time assistants.

## **Public Defender**

The county provides a public defender to represent indigent persons in court on a criminal charge. He must be a licensed attorney and is appointed by the circuit court. Customarily he serves for a two-year period, on a part-time appointment. His salary, paid by the county, is one-third of that paid to the state's attorney. Should the defendant refuse the services of the specified public defender, the court must appoint another attorney to defend him.

## **Sheriff**

The sheriff is the chief law enforcement official in a county. His authority is provided for by the state constitution which makes him responsible for keeping peace in a county. He executes writs, warrants, orders, and decrees of the court. He is custodian of the court house, director of safety, and is in charge of the county jail. His jurisdiction extends throughout the county, but he is mainly concerned with the unincorporated areas.

The sheriff is elected for a four-year term in a county-wide election, and he cannot succeed himself in office. His salary is determined, within legislative limits, by the county board of supervisors. In addition he



is provided with housing and meals for himself and his family. His wife may be the dietitian for the jail, if she wishes, at a salary also set by the county board. The jail can house 75 prisoners.

In 1964 the sheriff's staff included ten full-time deputies, five jailors, and three bailiffs. The bailiffs have charge of the jury, and they open and close court sessions.

The sheriff's office is a fee office. All fines and fees go into the county general corporate fund from which the expenses of the department and jail are met. Any surplus funds remain in the general corporate fund.

### **Coroner**

The principal duty of the coroner is the investigation of any sudden or violent death, or death occurring without medical attention. Where there is a suspicion of violence, he conducts an inquest for which he summons a jury of six persons selected from a revolving roster. He may also request an autopsy, with several pathologists available on call. In case of a vacancy in the sheriff's office, he acts as conservator of the peace. In 1964 his staff included two deputies, but he is not furnished office space by the county.

The coroner, who is elected by the entire county for a four-year term, is a fee officer and does not receive a specified salary. The county board of supervisors sets a uniform fee which is charged to the estate of the deceased person and is paid directly to the general corporate fund. The coroner bills the county each month for the number of investigations he has made and the expenses incurred.



# CITIES AND VILLAGES

## Urbana

Urbana is the county seat of Champaign County, with most of the county offices in the court house. Most of the city offices are in the city building. The 1960 census listed its population as 29,000. It operates under the aldermanic form of government.

### Elected Officials

Urbana's **mayor**, whose position is a half-time one, is elected at large on a partisan ballot for a term of four years. He is the executive officer of the city who presides over the city council but votes only in case of a tie. He also serves as liquor commissioner and president of the Board of Local Improvements. He appoints aldermanic committees. With council approval he appoints special advisory boards and commissions, and all city officers, except the city clerk and the city treasurer.

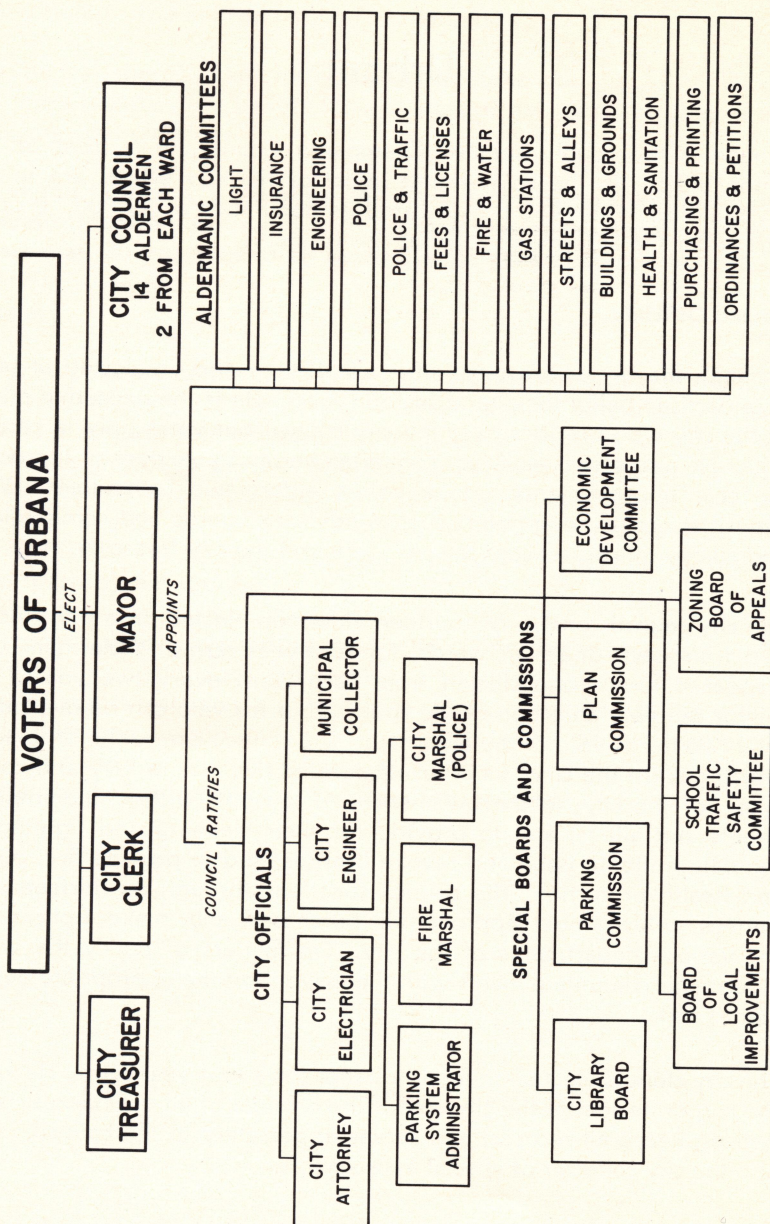
The **city council** consists of fourteen aldermen elected on a party ticket, two from each of seven wards, for four-year terms. Aldermen serve staggered terms, one elected from each ward every two years. The mayor can veto an action of the council, but his veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the aldermen. The council enacts the ordinances which govern the city. Its other responsibilities are: to levy and collect taxes for the city; to borrow money; to lay out, widen, and improve streets and alleys, and to provide for their cleaning and lighting; to regulate traffic; to issue and revoke licenses; and to provide fire, police, and health protection. The council functions through its thirteen committees, which must approve all purchases and make policies for the various departments of the city. On matters of policy the whole aldermanic committee meets with the mayor and the appropriate department head.

The **city clerk** is elected on a party ballot for a four-year term. He keeps the corporate seal of the city; keeps the original of all ordinances; issues notices; keeps all records; and serves as secretary to the council. He is also the city collector of special assessments.

The **city treasurer** is elected at-large on a party ballot for a four-year term. He keeps the financial accounts of the city, and pays out money only on properly signed warrants. All city bills must be signed by three members of the appropriate council committee.



# URBANA GOVERNMENT





## Appointed Officials

Certain officials are appointed by the mayor, and confirmed by the city council.

The **commissioner of public works and city engineer** is a full-time official, serving as head of these departments. As such he is in charge of all public property over which the city has jurisdiction. He is also responsible for maintaining, cleaning, inspecting, and constructing the city's streets and storm sewers, and for the maintenance of public buildings. In addition he is the **building inspector**, issues building permits, and inspects all new construction. Since he is responsible for enforcing the zoning ordinances, he may make recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a voting member of the Plan Commission and makes recommendations to that group, and is a member of the Board of Local Improvements. He is responsible to three aldermanic committees — engineering, streets and alleys, and buildings and grounds. His staff includes fifteen men.

The **city electrician** is a full-time official who serves as head of the department which maintains the city's street lighting system. He has several employees on his staff.

The **city marshal** serves as full-time head of the police department. His staff includes the police captain, four lieutenants (one of whom is the juvenile officer), three police sergeants and fourteen patrolmen, who are employed under civil service.

The **fire marshal** is a full-time official who is head of the fire department, with a staff of over twenty men.

The **municipal collector** is a full-time official who collects fees in connection with many different categories of city operation. Some of these are traffic fines, liquor licenses, garbage disposal fees and those connected with city dump permits, building permits, combustibles permits, rental of the Community Building, rentals for equipment, fines for broken street lights, vehicle and other licenses, electrical inspection fees, and maintenance fees. He must record all income and deposit it in the appropriate city fund.

The **parking system administrator** is also a full-time official who directs the meter patrols, and is in charge of all finances concerned with the parking system. He is paid by the parking commission of the council, although his appointment is a municipal one.

The **city attorney and corporation counsel** serves half-time. He acts on all legal matters pertaining to the city and represents the city in suits.



He draws up ordinances for all levies and bond issues, for annexations to the city, for zoning, and for tax appropriations.

### **Special Advisory Boards**

There are a number of special advisory boards and commissions, non-salaried, appointed by the mayor, and confirmed by the council.

The **Board of Local Improvements** plans major street and drainage system improvements, and makes recommendations for necessary ordinances to the city council. These must in turn be approved by the court.

The board plans the projects which are financed in part by a special levy (part of the property tax) and in part by the city's share of the state motor fuel tax. A public referendum is held on major bond issues such as that which authorized expansion of the storm drainage system in 1959.

The **Economic Development Committee** advises the board of local improvements on special assessment projects with which it is concerned. It reviews the motor fuel tax program and advises the same board on expenditures in anticipation of revenue. The joint committee of the association of commerce and the city council which first investigated the possibilities for downtown redevelopment was chosen from this group.

The **Parking Commission** has responsibility for operation and construction of the city's metered parking.

The **City Plan Commission** considers any matters concerned with city planning and development. It hears petitions for changes in the zoning ordinance and for special rezoning, and makes recommendations to the city council, which has the final authority in such matters. It also develops long-range plans for land use, keeps the zoning map up to date and available to the public, and approves new plats for development.

The function of the **Zoning Board of Appeals** is to hear requests for the granting of variations in the specific provisions in building ordinances.

It may allow up to 10% variation in set-back lines of buildings. It may make adjustments on the number of square feet of ground per apartment, or the amount of required parking space for a new apartment.

In these matters its decision is final. It does not hear appeals for changes in zoning, which are handled by the city plan commission and the city council.



The **School Traffic Safety Committee** advises the mayor and city council on matters pertaining to the safety of school children, such as school crossings, need for sidewalks, traffic patterns around schools, and control of dogs.

The **Board of Trustees for the City Library** sets policy for the library, approves the budget, and sends it to the city council for approval. It also approves appointments of library personnel.

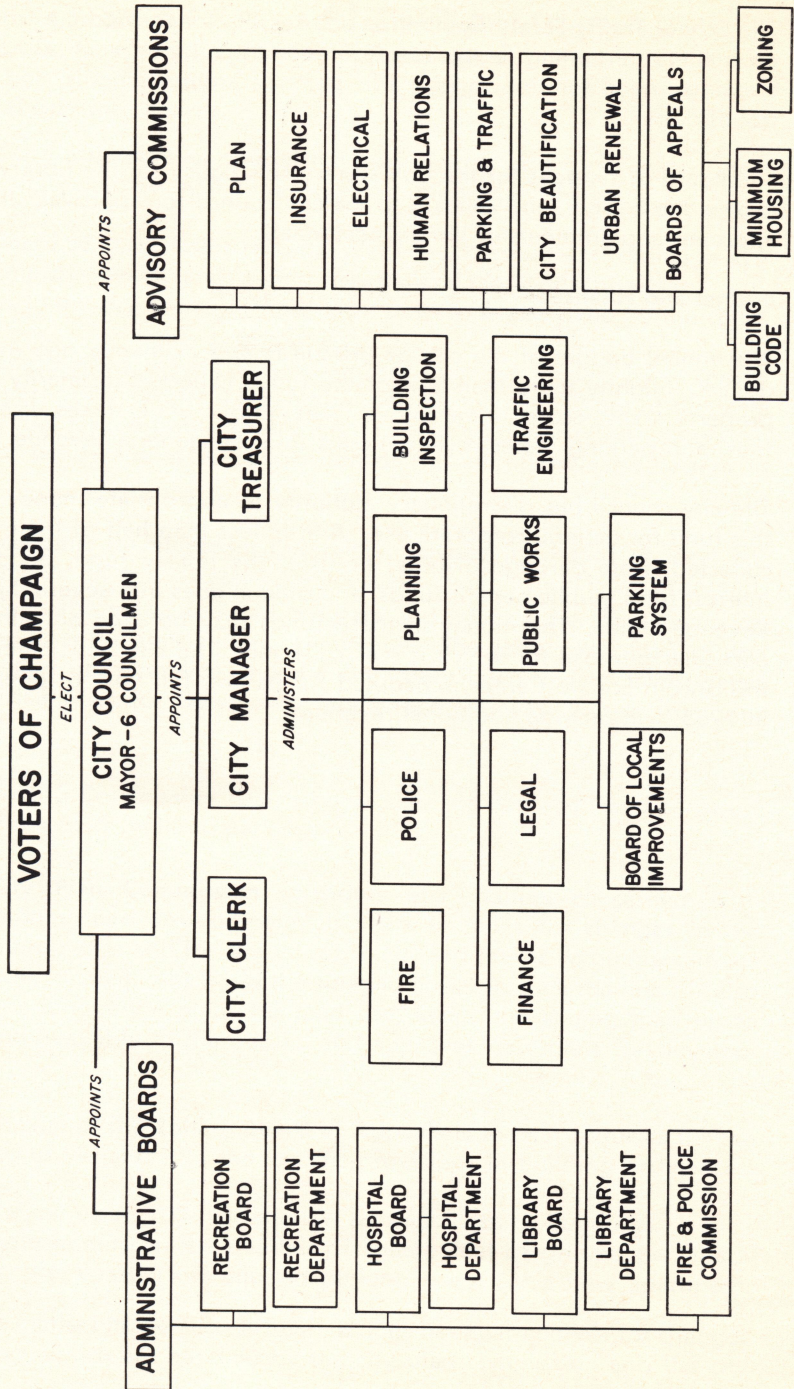
### **Budget and Finances**

The annual budget of the city of Urbana is approximately one million dollars. Slightly more than half of the funds collected (primarily from property taxes, occupational excise taxes, public utility taxes, licenses, fees, and parking meter revenue) goes into the general revenue fund.

The city council has discretionary authority to appropriate money from this fund for general corporate use. A little less than half of the money collected (from garbage disposal licenses, the library fund, bond and interest fund, public benefit funds, and others) goes into several Special Revenue Funds. The money in these funds may be used only for the particular purpose for which it was collected. The city anticipates that the Lincoln Square Center, scheduled for its first full year of operation in 1965, will provide additional revenues.



# CHAMPAIGN GOVERNMENT





# Champaign

Champaign has a council-manager form of government which went into effect in 1959, replacing the commission form. At that time Champaign's population was less than 50,000, which under Illinois law provides for the election of a mayor and four councilmen. The 1960 census revealed Champaign had passed 50,000 and was eligible to elect its present council of a mayor and six councilmen.

## Elected Officials

The mayor and councilmen are the only elected city officials.

The **mayor** is elected on a non-partisan basis for a four-year term. He presides at council meetings and votes as a member. With council approval, he appoints special advisory boards and commissions, and by state law he serves as liquor commissioner. The mayor represents the city on ceremonial occasions.

The **councilmen** are elected on a non-partisan basis for four-year terms, with three members elected every two years. They decide the general policies for conducting the city's affairs and enact the ordinances which govern the city. They are responsible for levying the city taxes and the appointment of the city manager, city clerk, and city treasurer.

## Council Appointments

The **city manager**, a full-time official, is appointed by the council for an indefinite term. All administrative decisions are made by him within policy set by the council. The manager is responsible for hiring and discharging all city employees authorized by the council, except for the city clerk and the city treasurer. The manager prepares the city budget, following the receipt of requests from all department heads, and his recommendations go to the council. The final budget is then published and placed on file with the city clerk for public inspection.

The council appoints a full-time **city clerk**. He is custodian of the city seal and attests all contracts, licenses, and permits. He keeps and indexes city documents, and keeps a register of all permits and licenses issued. In preparing for city elections, which are non-partisan, he accepts candidates' petitions for filing, arranges for polling places, election judges, election supplies, and legal publication of election notices. He acts as clerk for the township elections, which are on a partisan basis.

The city clerk is also **director of finance** and as such keeps all financial records of the city and must be able to show its fiscal condition at all times.



The **city treasurer**, a full-time appointee of the council, keeps a register of all warrants, bonds, or orders filed with him or paid by him. He may pay only those vouchers which are properly signed by the city clerk and the mayor. He also serves as **city collector** and receives all monies paid to the city.

### **Managerial Appointments**

The city manager appoints the **director of public works** who also serves as the city engineer. The department of public works plans, inspects, and maintains public improvements such as storm and sanitary sewers, sidewalks, and parking lots. It plans and maintains streets, and plants or removes trees. Its work is closely tied in with the Board of Local Improvements, a five-member board to which the city engineer acts as secretary. The board is chosen by the city manager, and it acts on petitions for sewers or streets to be financed by special assessments.

The **director of the planning department** acts as secretary to the Plan Commission and his department carries out the planning program concerning changes in zoning, streets, and similar matters.

The **superintendent of building inspection** has the assistance of a building inspector, a plumbing inspector, an electrical inspector, and a housing inspector, all of whom are appointed by the city manager. These officers have entry into any building or premises where construction is taking place.

The **traffic engineer** maintains street markings, street lighting, and traffic signals. He compiles statistics which help adjust traffic flow patterns, and removes or controls traffic hazards shown by accident locations. There is an over-all plan adopted by the council toward which the city is working.

The city manager appoints the **city attorney**, for an indefinite term. He prosecutes or defends any suits or actions in which the city is involved, and is available for advice on legal matters such as assessment and condemnation proceedings. Upon request of the council he will draw up contracts, ordinances, or other documents.

The **fire chief** and the **police chief** are named by the manager, although their departments are appointed by their respective commissions.

### **Boards and Commissions Appointed by the Mayor and Council**

The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners consists of three members who have charge of all appointments to, and promotions in, the fire and



police departments, and conduct all entrance and promotional examinations. Both services have pension boards.

The **police department** has a force of fifty-two men: the chief, his captain, six lieutenants, six sergeants, and thirty-eight patrolmen. Fifteen of these men are co-op patrolmen whose cars carry fire equipment, and who can act as firemen if the need arises. One man acts as safety officer, who investigates traffic accidents and reports to the traffic engineer.

Two police officers are assigned to the juvenile division. Complete records are kept of youthful offenders, but such records are for police use only and will not serve as permanent criminal records. The police matron directs the women who check the parking meters. Part-time crossing guards are assigned by the traffic engineer to direct school children across busy intersections.

The **fire department** has forty-seven members. Besides the chief there are three assistant chiefs, a fire inspector, nine lieutenants, twelve engineers, and twenty-one firemen. In addition to the main fire station located in the City Building, there are two substations which have quick access to suburban areas.

The **Plan Commission** works with the official plan of Champaign, covering the city and including the unincorporated surrounding territory up to a mile and a half beyond the city limits. It sets reasonable requirements for streets and alleys, and prepares and recommends changes in the plan as may be deemed necessary by the council or the commission. Much of its time is spent on requests for rezoning. There are five appointed members, and the mayor and the president of the Board of Local Improvements are ex-officio members.

There is a **Zoning Appeals Board** of seven members, a **Building Code Board of Appeals** with five members, and a **Minimum Housing Code Board of Appeals** of three members, each of which acts upon requests for variations in the respective ordinances.

The **Electrical Commission** sets standards and specifications for the use of electrical equipment in the city. It also gives examinations to applicants for licenses as registered electricians. The electrical inspector is chairman of the commission; of the other four members, one must be an electrical contractor, one a journeyman electrician, one a representative of the national fire underwriters or the fire chief, and one a representative of an electrical supply company.

Each of the three members of the **Insurance Commission** must be a qualified insurance agent who has been in business in the community for five years. The commission advises the council on city insurance requirements.



The **Parking and Traffic Commission** has five citizen members, as well as the traffic engineer and the chief of police. It makes recommendations to the council for the administration and improvement of parking and traffic conditions.

Three city departments are run by administrative boards which the mayor appoints and the council approves: these are the **Burnham City Hospital Board**, the **Burnham City Library Board**, and the **Recreation Board**. These non-salaried boards are not under the control of the city manager, though his office is available to them for advice and budget planning. The council approves the budget requirements for these departments.

The **Human Relations Commission** consists of seven members. It receives and investigates complaints, and may initiate its own investigations of tensions, practices of discrimination, and acts of prejudice against any person or group because of race, religion or ethnic origin.

The resulting recommendations for improving such situations are reported to the city council, and the commission's annual report is made public.

### **Urban Renewal**

Champaign has begun a long range improvement program under the federal General Neighborhood Renewal Plan. This urban renewal project is designed to develop and improve an area of property deterioration; to remove buildings which can not be repaired; and to relocate others when necessary. The area involved in Champaign covers about 236 acres in the northeast section of the city, between Bradley and University Avenues, from Wright Street to the Illinois Central Railroad. This part of the city is divided into five or six project areas; the entire program is expected to take ten years to complete. The first phase, involving 47 acres, will extend south from Bradley to between Eureka and Tremont Streets. The cost of the entire project is estimated at approximately \$8,000,000, of which three-fourths will come from federal funds. The city will pay the remainder by levying a 1% utility tax, authorized by the council in January, 1964.

### **Budget and Finances**

In the fiscal year 1963-64, Champaign had a general city budget of over two million dollars. The property tax (collected by the county) and the sales tax (collected by the state and distributed directly to the city treasurer's office) are the leading sources of city revenue, and furnish 55% of the funds. The utility tax is the third major source for general



city expenditures. Parking meter fees amount to 8.5% of the budget; this revenue is used only to finance and maintain the city's parking system. Motor fuel tax funds spent on street improvements usually amount to about \$300,000. Cities are permitted to draw against the state motor fuel tax for specified street improvements. As these funds are available on a per capita basis, it is important to the city to annex adjacent subdivisions and businesses. The remaining revenue comes from fines, licenses, permits, and fees.

## Rantoul

The third largest community in Champaign County is the village of Rantoul, which has a population of over 22,000. Founded in 1854, Rantoul grew up beside the railroad seventeen miles north of Urbana. In 1953 Chanute Air Force Base was annexed to the village, and the corporate limits now encompass 1,600 acres.

### City Officials

Rantoul is governed by an elected **village board** consisting of a mayor, a city clerk, and six trustees. Each officer has a term of four years. The mayor, city clerk, and three trustees are elected at a municipal election, and the other three trustees are elected two years later. The trustees receive a fee for each meeting attended, up to four per month. The mayor and city clerk are paid regular salaries.

The **mayor**, as president of the board of trustees and coordinator of government activity, has full responsibility for the affairs of the community. He is also the fire, police, and liquor commissioner.

The **city clerk** is the local registrar for the state government, and he keeps the village ordinance files and financial records. He is assisted by a comptroller and four clerks.

There are five departments of government in Rantoul, each headed by a trustee. The five are: power plant; finance; roads, streets, and alleys; health and buildings; water and sanitation. The sixth trustee is assistant street commissioner.

The mayor appoints, with the confirmation of the board, a chief of police, a comptroller, and superintendents of streets, power, water, and sewage. The utilities are owned by the village corporation and are completely self-supporting.





### **Police and Fire Protection**

The police force consists of about 20 men, including the chief, patrolmen, and clerks. The volunteer fire department has about 20 men who choose their chief from among their number. Cooperation with Chanute Technical Training Center results in increased fire protection for the community. The Rantoul fire department responds to calls outside the corporate limits.

### **Funds for the Village**

Sources of revenue for the village are the county tax funds, the state sales tax, and motor fuel tax funds.



# Villages of the County

## The Illinois Municipal Code

Municipalities in Illinois operate under the Municipal Code of 1961. This permits an area to organize as a village if there are at least 400 people living in immobile dwellings in a one square mile area. A city can be organized if there are at least 2,500 people, 2,000 of whom live in immobile dwellings, living in a four square mile area. Some of the villages in Champaign County, all organized prior to 1961, have a population of less than 400. All municipal powers are derived from the state.

Four types of municipal government are permitted in the state. These four are the mayor-council (or aldermanic), council-manager, commission, and trustee plans. In Champaign County we have three of these four plans in operation. Champaign is organized as a council-manager city; Urbana is a mayor-council city; Rantoul and the 19 other incorporated municipalities in the county are organized as trustee villages.

## Village Officials

There are 20 incorporated villages in Champaign County. (Allerton is sometimes listed also, but only eight of the residents of Allerton live in Champaign County, the others residing in Vermilion County.) Rantoul, because of its size, has been discussed separately.

Each of the 19 remaining villages elects six trustees, a president, and a clerk for four-year terms except in those villages where a two-year term was adopted prior to 1942. These eight officials comprise the village board and carry out the legislative functions of the village. The president performs the executive functions. Vacancies are filled at the next regular election unless the board considers it advisable to call a special election. The board is empowered to appoint someone to fill a vacancy until the next election. It is also permitted to appoint a treasurer, marshal, street commissioner, and such other officers or boards as may be needed to carry out the functions of the village.

The county's villages have many similarities. They grew up near the railroads, and many of them date back to the building of these railroads. Today most of them have freight service only; Tolono, Rantoul, and Champaign are the only communities in the county with passenger service. Most are farming communities and the principal businesses are those that serve the farmer, such as grain elevators, lumber and



farm machinery retail stores, fertilizer plants, and filling stations. Many of the residents of the villages work in Champaign, Urbana, or Rantoul. It is interesting to note that the villages have not lost in population in the last twenty years. They have either maintained approximately the same population or grown, some of them rather rapidly.

The funds for the operation of the village governments come principally from the property and real estate taxes with other funds available from motor fuel tax funds and the .5 per cent municipal sales tax levied by all of the villages. Ogden has an electric power plant which furnishes the village with some surplus funds. Many of the villages maintain a municipal water supply. All of the villages provide some form of fire protection.

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY VILLAGES

Village	Date Incorporated	Population 1960 Census	Appointed Officers	Special Services
Broadlands	Unknown	344	Treasurer Marshal Attorney Water Department Superintendent	Water Supply Park F.P.D.*
Fisher	1895	1,155	Treasurer Attorney Water Superintendent Health Officer	Water Supply F.P.D.*
Foosland	1959	150	Treasurer	F.P.D.*
Gifford	1954	609	Treasurer Marshal Deputy Marshal Health Officer	Water Supply Park (Privately owned) F.P.D.*
Homer	1855	1,276	Treasurer Marshal Street Commissioner Attorney	Water Supply Volunteer Fire Department
Ivesdale	1860	356	Treasurer Attorney	F.P.D.*
Longview	Unknown	270	Treasurer Marshal Water Department Superintendent	Water Supply F.P.D.* Park
Ludlow	1892	460	Treasurer Water Commissioner Attorney	Water Supply Volunteer Fire Department



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY VILLAGES

Village	Date Incorporated	Population 1960 Census	Appointed Officers	Special Services
Mahomet	1872	1,367	Treasurer Marshal	Water Supply Sewage Treatment Plant Natural Gas Supply F.P.D.*
Ogden	1871	515	Treasurer Water Superintendent Light Plant Superintendent Health Officer Attorney Street Superintendent	Water Supply Electric Power Plant Park F.P.D.* Library
Pesotum	1906	468	Treasurer Water Superintendent	Water Supply Park Village Fire Department
Philo	1875	740	Treasurer Water Superintendent Building Inspector	Water Supply 2 Parks Township Library F.P.D.*
Royal	1953	171	Treasurer Attorney	F.P.D.*
Sadorus	1879	384	Treasurer Marshal	Water Supply Volunteer Fire Department
St. Joseph	1881	1,210	Treasurer	Water Supply Library Park F.P.D.*
Savoy	1956	339	Treasurer Marshal Planning Board	Volunteer Fire Department Contract with Northern Illinois Water Company
Sidney	1886	686	Treasurer Water Works Superintendent	Water Supply Park (privately owned) F.P.D.*
Thomasboro	1902	458	Treasurer Water Works Superintendent	Water Supply F.P.D.*
Tolono	1866	1,539	Treasurer Marshal Water Superintendent Building Inspector Health Officer Attorney	Water Supply Volunteer Fire Department Park

\* Fire Prevention Districts.



# SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY

Type of School	Elementary Schools	Junior High	High School	Parochial
Community Consolidated	Thomasboro Ludlow St. Joseph Stanton Center Flatville Gifford Ogden Royal Penfield Homer (Grades 1-12)			St. Matthews (Champaign) Holy Cross (Champaign) St. Mary's (Urbana) St. Joseph (Ivesdale) St. Joseph (Pesotum) St. Mary (Pesotum) St. Thomas (Philo) St. Lawrence (Penfield) St. Malachy (Rantoul) St. Paul Lutheran (Sadorus)
Unit District	Fisher Mahomet Seymour Allerton Longview Pesotum Philo Sadorus Sidney Tolono Champaign (17)	Fisher Mahomet-Seymour Tolono Champaign (3)	Fisher Mahomet-Seymour Allerton- Broadlands- Longview (Jr.-Sr. High) Tolono Champaign	
Common School District	Rantoul (5) Urbana School District 116 (9)	Rantoul Urbana	Urbana	
Township High School			Rantoul	
Community High School			St. Joseph- Ogden	
University			University High	



# EDUCATION

## Schools - Public and Private

The Champaign County superintendent of schools is nominated in the party primary and is a political candidate for the office. He must have a Master's degree with at least twenty hours credit in education courses, a valid state supervisory certificate, and must have been engaged in educational work during the two years prior to his filing a petition as candidate. His salary is paid by the state and is scaled according to the population of the county. The duties are prescribed by law and include supervision and control of all school districts in the county; approval of school district reports, budgets, and plans for all new buildings; issuance of teacher certificates and validation of all teaching certificates in the county. There is no retirement age for this officer.

The County Board of School Trustees is a non-partisan board with seven members, each elected to six-year terms with not more than one member from a congressional township. The terms are staggered, with elections every two years in the statewide primary election. The board's duties are prescribed by law and include the responsibility for the formation of new school districts, the transfer of territory from one district to another, and the sale of all school buildings in the county. This board holds titles to all school property.

Each school district has tax levying privileges, as prescribed by law. Each district also has its own school board which is responsible for hiring its superintendent. He is the administrator of all schools in the district, hires the necessary personnel (with board approval), and must operate within the budget.

There are five types of districts in the county: community consolidated school districts, community unit school districts, common school districts, a township high school district, and a community high school district. There are ten parochial schools, nine Catholic and one Lutheran, and a secondary school established and administered by the College of Education of the University of Illinois.

In addition to a broad curriculum Champaign Unit 4 offers an extensive special education program, including classes for gifted, mentally retarded, physically handicapped, and emotionally disturbed children. Many of these classes are available to pupils from outside the district on a tuition basis. Urbana District 116 accepts the responsibility for hiring a teacher for the County Youth Home, sharing the cost with



Champaign Unit 4 and the County Board of Supervisors. Both schools offer a tuition-free summer program at both elementary and high school levels, with courses available on demand. Rantoul also offers a summer program of high school courses on demand, but a tuition fee is charged. In addition to regular state aid, both Rantoul City Schools and Rantoul Township High School receive special state aid under Public Law 874-815 for military encampments, as well as a large amount of aid both in revenue and buildings from the federal government to provide for the education of pupils from families connected with Champaign Air Force Base. Seven other districts in Champaign County also receive special state aid for the same reason: Fisher, Champaign, Urbana, Thomasboro, Ludlow, Gifford, and Penfield.

## The University of Illinois

The University of Illinois was established under the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862, and opened in 1868 with three faculty members and fifty students. In 1964 more than 25,000 students were enrolled on the Urbana campus, and more than 9,000 people were employed there. The university's annual budget is now over \$90,000,000, of which more than \$50,000,000 goes for salaries and wages. The colleges of medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry are located in Chicago, and a new four-year undergraduate college, to replace the two-year program at Navy Pier, is being developed there.

The university is governed by a Board of Trustees, an elective body which appoints its own president, and to which the president of the university makes regular financial and administrative reports. The governor of the state and the state superintendent of public instruction are ex-officio members. The board determines the policies of the university, confirms all appointments and promotions, and makes long term plans for the development and needs of the university. The university's operating expenses come from money voted to it by the state legislature each biennium. In recent years this money has been considerably augmented by grants-in-aid from the federal government and from private industry, for specific research projects.

The Urbana campus covers 547 acres, with 2,603 acres of agricultural experiment fields in the county, as well as the 771-acre Willard airport. The physical plant has 140 major buildings and is valued at almost \$225,000,000. One of the university's most valuable assets is its library, which contains over three and a half million books. The Illini Union is a center for student activities, with food services, ticket offices, a book center, a browsing room, bowling lanes, a billiard room, and a





Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois

television lounge. The Krannert Art Museum, the gift of an alumnus, offers changing exhibits in addition to its permanent collection of art. The same donor has contributed the major portion of the funds for a Center for the Performing Arts to be built on the Champaign-Urbana campus in the near future.

A recent addition to the campus, of interest because of its striking architecture, is the circular Assembly Hall. It is a multipurpose building for convocations, conferences, stage productions, concerts, and athletics. It has the world's largest edge-supported dome, 400 feet in diameter, seats 16,000 people, and was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$8,340,000. No tax funds were used in the construction; the bonds will be repaid by building use and student fees.

Robert Allerton Park, near Monticello in Piatt county about twenty miles from Champaign, was given to the university in 1946 by its owner. It is an estate of 1700 acres, with several buildings, elaborate gardens, a small lake, and woodland areas, which is used extensively for smaller university conferences. The park is open to the public.



## Extension Services

In addition to the fifteen colleges and schools on the Urbana campus which offer liberal arts, professional and postgraduate work, there are also institutes, bureaus, experiment stations, headquarters for extension, and other statewide services. Most of them regularly publish bulletins and pamphlets about their activities. Three state surveys are located on the campus: the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Illinois State Natural History Survey, and the Illinois State Water Survey. There are two institutes, one on government and public affairs, and the other on labor and industrial relations; and the College of Commerce maintains a bureau of business management. The Division of University Extension operates correspondence courses at college level, extramural courses for college credit at undergraduate and at graduate levels, and non-credit courses. It also has an audio-visual aids service, a speakers bureau, a fire college, a police training institute, and extension services in music and the visual arts.

Of particular interest to the county is the Cooperative Extension Service of the College of Agriculture. It is jointly sponsored and financed by the federal, state, and local governments under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 which provides for matching funds, with 35% coming from federal funds, 42% from state funds, and 23% from local funds. In Champaign County the local funds are derived from donations from the Farm Bureau, fees collected by the Homemakers Extension Association, and donations from the United Fund of Champaign County. This service has specialists in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H club work, who maintain contact with farm and home advisors serving all of the state's 102 counties. In Champaign County the agricultural extension council and the home economics extension council plan and administer the program for the county, working with the county farm advisor and the county home advisor, both full-time paid employees.



Assembly Hall, University of Illinois





Technical Training Center, Chanute Air Force Base

## Chanute Technical Training Center

The United States Air Force maintains the Chanute Technical Training Center on the southern edge of Rantoul. Here it trains airmen, officers, and civilian employees of the Air Force, Air Reserve, Air National Guard, other departments of the national defense establishment, and foreign nationals. As the oldest and one of the largest technical schools, Chanute has a leading role in the Air Force's program for the training of technicians.

Facilities at the base include hangars, runways, equipment for training more than 21,000 students yearly, a 200-bed hospital, and housing for a large proportion of the Air Force personnel. The base has its own streets, and its own water, heating, and sewage systems.

Named for Octave Chanute, an aviation pioneer, Chanute Field was established in 1917 to train fliers for World War I. From 1938 to 1941 it was expanded into a permanent base which, during World War II and the Korean War, trained hundreds of thousands of men. Since 1947 Chanute has been a major training center for jet aircraft and now has extensive facilities for training in the operation and maintenance of rocket engines and missile systems.

Today Chanute Technical Training Center, as it was redesignated in 1959, is valued at \$338,000,000 and has about 12,000 persons on the payroll. It is thus a dominating economic factor in Champaign County with special influence on Rantoul, Champaign, and Urbana. Base personnel each year spend an estimated \$13,000,000 in Rantoul and slightly more in Champaign-Urbana.



# PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

## Public Health

### **Champaign-Urbana Public Health District**

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, with headquarters at 505 South Fifth Street in Champaign, was established in 1938, to enforce existing laws and ordinances relating to public health and sanitation within the townships of the City of Champaign and Cunningham. Its governing board consists of three members: the supervisors of the two townships and the chairman of the county board of supervisors, an ex-officio member.

The staff of the public health district consists of about eighteen employees, including a director, a supervising nurse, other trained nurses, two milk sanitarians, and a dentist. The director is appointed by the governing board. His qualifications include graduation from an approved medical school, graduate work in public health, and, if possible, practical experience in public health work.

The director carries out policies of the governing board, organizes and develops the staff, and gives consultations to the people of the district. He works with the two municipal governments to enforce municipal health ordinances, assists the city attorney if court action is needed, and he cooperates in county-wide public health programs such as the oral polio vaccine program.

The health district nurses do not regularly give bedside care but will demonstrate it to a family member and will temporarily give nursing assistance. Guidance, advice, and counseling encompass a good part of their work which ranges from prenatal care, postpartum service, premature baby care, and pre-school advice, to advice on good health habits for the aging.

Two free clinics are offered to citizens of Champaign and Urbana: a dental clinic and a venereal control clinic.

Milk sanitarians inspect local dairies and dairy herds to comply with prescribed health regulations. Reciprocal agreements with other health districts make it possible to accept milk shipped in from elsewhere in Illinois as inspected and pure.

Restaurants and school cafeterias are periodically checked for correct handling of food. Dishwashing machines are checked for proper water temperature.



The local water supply is checked by the state public health office which reports to the Champaign-Urbana district.

The health district is supported primarily by local taxes, but it receives about 20% of its budget from the state in payment for certain services rendered.

### **State Health Districts**

The state of Illinois is divided into five regional public health districts. The office for the East Central Region, which includes Champaign County, is at 301 West Birch Street in Champaign. It is headed by a regional director, and it takes care of areas not served by local public health districts. The director for the Champaign-Urbana district reports directly to the state, but his office cooperates with the regional office.

### **County Public Health and School Nurse**

The Champaign County nurse and her assistant nurse are hired and paid by, and are responsible to, the county board of supervisors. Their office is in the court house. Their jurisdiction covers all of Champaign County outside the city limits of Champaign and Urbana. The area is approximately one thousand square miles, and their services are available to some 130,000 people. The nurses' duties are not prescribed by law and are undertaken voluntarily by them.

In forty-one schools within the county, the nurses supervise and give instruction to persons who will give vision tests, and periodically they conduct hearing tests beginning with kindergarten children. School officials, doctors, and agencies refer health and family problems to the county nurse. Under a state program, the nurses go into homes where there are premature babies to help and advise the mothers, test wells for nitrate content, and check the homes for poison precautions. A county-wide immunization program is set up periodically by the nurses. The county nurse also gives health talks to civic organizations throughout the county.

### **Hospitals**

The four major hospitals in the county, as well as the growing number of nursing and convalescent homes, are all state licensed and inspected.

Burnham City Hospital in Champaign receives three per cent of its funds from city taxes and the balance from fees from patients. It has 176 beds and all the services of a general hospital, including X-ray and laboratory facilities.



Carle Memorial Hospital in Urbana is a non-profit organization supported by patient fees and outside contributions. It has 160 beds. The hospital operates a pharmacy, laboratories, and full X-ray equipment.

Cole Hospital in Champaign is privately owned. It is a medical and surgical hospital with 63 beds and X-ray equipment.

Mercy Hospital in Urbana is a Catholic hospital, maintained and operated by a nursing sisterhood. It is a non-profit organization supported by patient fees and contributions from the public. It has 280 beds and has a laboratory and X-ray equipment.

Chanut Technical Training Center maintains its own hospital, as does the University of Illinois.

### **Tuberculosis Sanatorium**

Outlook Sanatorium, located on Route 45 north of Urbana, is maintained by Champaign County. At present it is supervised by two local physicians and is governed by a committee of the county board of supervisors. It has facilities for 24 bed patients but can take care of six more if the need arises. Patients are referred to the sanatorium by local physicians. Chest surgery is not performed at the sanatorium but post-operative care is available.

### **Chest X-ray Clinic**

A tuberculosis chest X-ray clinic is located in the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District building. This service, sponsored by the Champaign County Tuberculosis association, is free to all citizens of the county.

### **County Rabies Control**

Rabies control is a branch of the state public health program. The state law covers canine rabies only, but reports are gathered concerning any warm-blooded animal.

The county rabies control department has an office in the county office building where records are kept of all rabies cases. A rabies control officer, a full-time deputy sheriff, is appointed each year by the rabies control committee of the county board of supervisors.

The county rabies inspector must be a licensed veterinarian, appointed yearly by the rabies control committee of the supervisors. The position



is rotated among the county's veterinarians. Most other veterinarians in the county are deputy inspectors who also have authority to inoculate animals and certify their release from quarantine.

Every dog in the county is required to wear a tag showing that it has been inoculated within a certain period of time for rabies. The tags and inoculations cost \$4.00, of which the rabies control department receives one dollar, the veterinarians the rest. The veterinarian provides the vaccine and the inoculations, and the county provides the tags. All fees are turned over to the county treasurer to be placed in the county rabies fund. The rabies control department is almost self-supporting.

The incidence of rabies is low in the county because of the vigilance of the control officer in regard to wildlife, such as squirrels and skunks, as well as to domestic pets.

### **County Veterinarian**

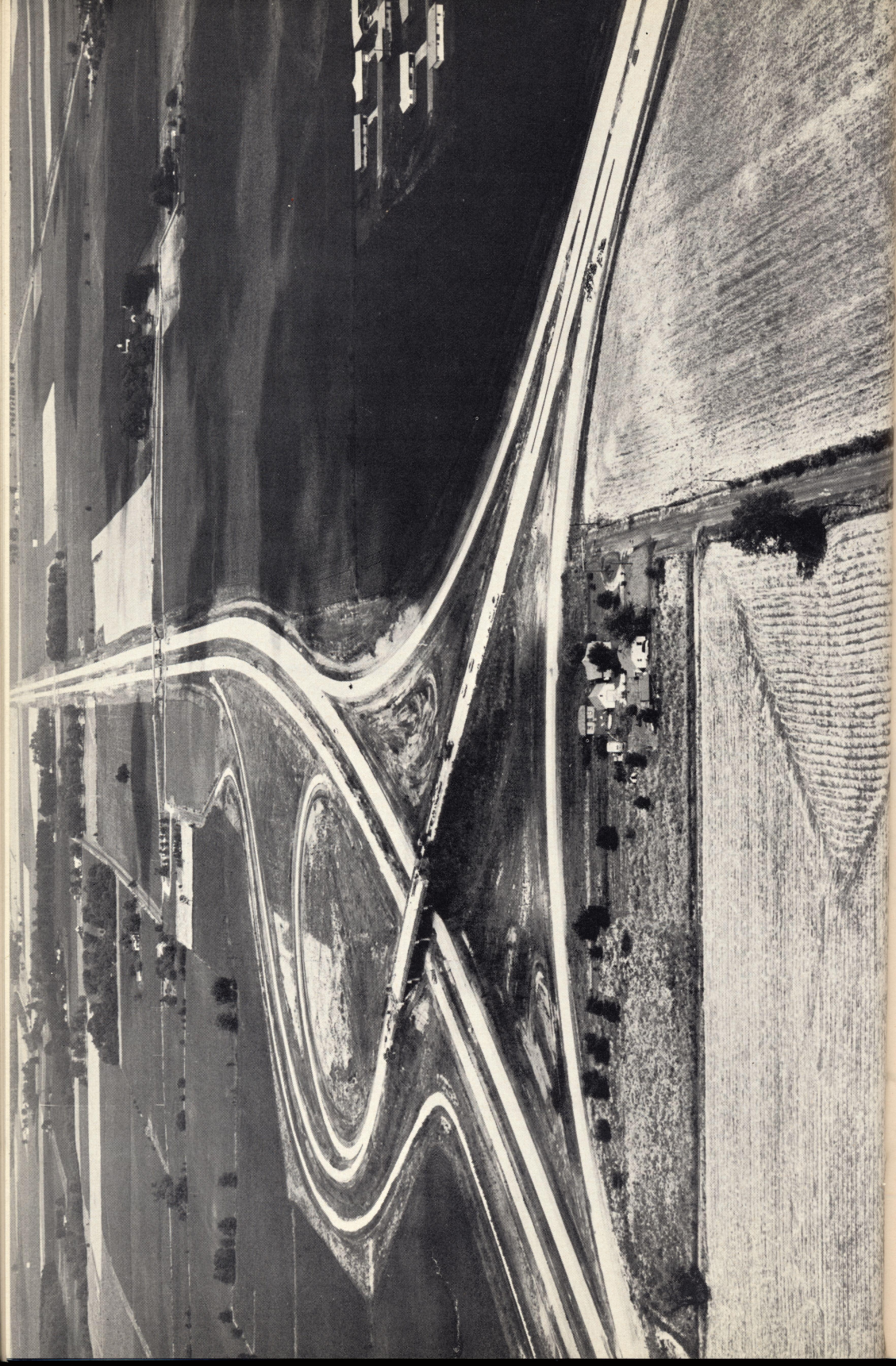
The State of Illinois is unique in having a county veterinarian program; within the state, forty counties employ a full-time veterinarian. The program was inaugurated in the early 1920's to help eradicate tuberculosis in cattle. The veterinarians work with all livestock diseases and the program has been effective in the control and eradication of livestock disease in Illinois.

The veterinarian is employed by the county board of supervisors, subject to approval by the Illinois Division of Livestock Industry. He must have had experience in the field and must also have a knowledge of the laws and regulations pertaining to animal disease control. His office must have an efficient system of maintaining records. The veterinarian's contract may not exceed a period of four years, but it may be renewed.

Half of his salary is paid by the state and half by the county, and under present law the state's share cannot exceed \$400 per month. The veterinarian's secretary receives her salary from the county.

The county veterinarian's duties include a monthly report of all livestock diseases to the state department of agriculture. Under the Grade A Milk Law, all herds selling milk for human consumption are tested for tuberculosis by the veterinarian every six years, and a certificate is given to each farmer. This is in addition to semi-annual inspection by each milk dairy of the individual farmers supplying milk. The veterinarian's diagnostic services include tuberculin testing, brucellosis testing, recognition of sheep scabies, hog cholera, and other diseases.







# Public Welfare

## **Township Public Assistance**

Township supervisors administer general assistance to the poor, to the medically indigent, and to veterans. Funds for this aid are supplied by township taxes, supplemented if necessary by payments from the state. Townships using state funds are supervised by the state department of public aid. In Champaign County there are at present no township supervisors who use state funds. Some of them, however, voluntarily follow policies and procedures recommended by the state department. Each township supervisor proposes an annual budget which is submitted for public inspection, and the money is appropriated from the individual township's tax fund.

By state law, in order to be eligible for assistance from a township supervisor, a person must have been a resident of the given township for six months and of the state for one year. If, after having lived in the state one year and in the township six months, the applicant for assistance moves to another township, the supervisor in the former township is responsible for the applicant until he has established residence in his new township. If an applicant has not established residence, the supervisor may make a grant to send the applicant back to the place from which he came. The supervisor determines if an applicant can establish residence, is not an employable person who refuses suitable work, has no responsible relatives able to support him, and is in need of assistance. The supervisors in the larger townships hire workers to help them administer the assistance program.

Most supervisors consider assistance from the township to be temporary and refer the recipients to other agencies for rehabilitation or permanent assistance when needed. Each supervisor decides what amount of assistance shall be granted to an applicant and in what form it shall be given. Most supervisors in Champaign County give assistance in the form of drug orders, food orders, or direct payment to doctors, hospitals, and landlords. The recipient does not receive money.

## **Champaign County Department of Public Aid**

The Champaign County department of public aid is a branch of the Illinois department of public aid, and is therefore not a part of the county government. The department administers five assistance programs supported by state and federal funds: aid to the aged; the totally and permanently disabled; the blind; dependent children; the medically indigent aged. An advisory board to the department is made up of citizens of the county and is appointed by the county board of supervisors.



## **Champaign County Nursing Home**

The county nursing home is located at 1700 East Main Street in Urbana. It can care for 201 aged residents and it usually has a waiting list. The home is administered by a director who is responsible to a seven-man committee of the township supervisors. There are at present about eighty-two full-time employees and fifteen part-time employees on the staff, including two registered nurses, five licensed practical nurses, fifty-six nurses' aids, an occupational therapist, and a part-time pharmacist. The home is licensed by the state department of mental health. Operating costs for 1962 were \$380,267. These were covered by a charge of \$181 per month for each resident. The fees of about half of the residents are paid from private resources, and about half are paid by the state department of public aid. Some of the residents have their fees paid through the township general assistance program.

All aged residents of the county are eligible to apply for residence in the home, but those applicants who are on township assistance programs are considered first, and those on state public aid programs are given next priority.

## **Office of Champaign County Court Services**

Many of the affairs of the office of court services concern children. These include investigations for adoptions and for cases of child dependency and neglect. The staff works with children who, because of dependency or neglect, are wards of the court, and provision is made for foster home care for them when needed. The office also makes investigations and recommendations in cases of juvenile delinquency and may be responsible for counseling juveniles on probation or finding treatment for them.

There are five probation workers on the staff. The chief probation officer is selected by and is responsible to the circuit court judge. The probation workers make pre-sentence investigations and recommendations to the court in all adult criminal cases and provide casework if the adult is put on probation.

In 1962 the office's expenditures were \$103,000. This included salaries, cost of foster home care, medical care, and other expenses of wards of the court. When possible, parents reimburse the court for the care of the children. Most of the money, however, is appropriated by the county board of supervisors from the county corporate tax fund.

## **Champaign County Youth Home**

The youth home is at 1600 East Main Street in Urbana. It is a temporary detention home for boys and girls between the ages of eight and eight-



een (seventeen for boys), who have broken the law or who have behavior problems that are considered dangerous to themselves or society. Youths are placed in the home by a law enforcement agency or by the court. The chief probation officer is responsible for admissions, discharges, evaluations, and plans for the youth's future. The home is administered by the residential houseparents, who are supervised by the chief probation officer. A committee of the county board of supervisors is responsible for the operation of the home.

Appropriations for operating costs in 1963 were about \$17,078, coming largely from the county tax fund with the approval of the county board of supervisors. About \$3,500 is collected annually from other counties for support of children from those counties kept in the youth home. The home has facilities for eight boys and four girls.

During the school months, the residents are tutored in their regular studies by a teacher provided jointly by Urbana School District 116, Champaign School Unit 4, and the county board of supervisors. Psychological and psychiatric services are obtained from the Mental Health Clinic, the University of Illinois Psychological Clinic, and the Institute for Juvenile Research.

### **Huling Home**

The Huling Home in Rantoul provides residential care for dependent children who are wards of the court and who cannot be placed in foster homes. There is room for twenty children in the home. It is licensed by the State Department of Children and Family Services, and it is supervised by a married couple responsible to the Huling Home committee consisting of eight township supervisors. The operating costs in 1963 were \$36,000 and were provided by an appropriation by the county board of supervisors from the county corporate tax fund.

The children go to the Rantoul public schools free of cost to the county. The general policy is to limit a child's stay in the home to three years. Through donations from clubs most of the children go to a camp in the summer for a couple of weeks. Facilities of the Champaign County Mental Health Clinic are available for the children.

### **State Welfare Agencies**

The addresses of the state agencies with offices in Champaign County may be obtained from the telephone directory for Champaign-Urbana or from the **Illinois Voters' Handbook**.

### **Private Welfare Agencies**

Information about these is available from the United Community Council of Champaign County, 303 South Wright Street, Champaign.







# OTHER TAXING DISTRICTS

## Parks and Recreation

Champaign County is well supplied with parks and recreation areas. Some of these are supported by county tax funds. Others have municipal tax support for park and recreation districts, while some small community parks or playgrounds are financed by community or private funds. Lake of the Woods, near Mahomet, is an example of the first type; Crystal Lake Park, in Urbana, and Hessel Park, in Champaign, are typical of the second; and most of the villages operate their parks and recreation facilities with community or private funds.

### Forest Preserve District

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District was established in 1948 under the authority of the Illinois County Preserve law. It is administered by the county board of supervisors, who serve without pay for three-year terms. The commission may acquire county lands containing natural forests, and must maintain them in their natural state for the education and recreation of the public.

Lake of the Woods was the first acquisition of the Champaign county forest preserve. This parkland consists of about 400 acres, most of it given by a few Champaign county citizens who have been interested in the development of recreational facilities in the county. These are available for picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming, golf, volleyball, and baseball in the summer, and for ice skating, sledding, tobogganning, and ice fishing in the winter. Two pavilion shelters are provided for year-round use and may be reserved by groups. Fees are charged for the use of some of these facilities. The preserve is supervised by three families who live on the grounds.

### Park Districts

A few of the largest communities have developed park districts, under state law, which are supported entirely by city property tax funds. Bond issues may be set by referendum for special projects, such as swimming pools, and do not affect the park district's tax rate.

There are four park districts in Champaign county which operate under the park district code: Champaign, with a park area of approximately one hundred and sixty acres; Mayfair, with a small neighborhood park district within the city of Champaign, an area of about one acre; Urbana, with one hundred and fifty acres; and Rantoul, with about eighteen



acres of parkland. Each district is supported by a property tax levy, limited by law, and included in the tax bill of property owners within the district. The districts are administered by five-man boards of commissioners who are elected on a non-partisan basis for six-year terms by the registered voters of the district. They serve without pay. Their duties include hiring personnel to maintain the parks and facilities, acquiring additional lands for parks, developing long range plans for park development, determining the budget, and setting up and enforcing standards for the use and functions of the parks.

### **Recreation Departments**

Urbana, Champaign, and Rantoul have developed tax-supported recreational programs which involve the use of parks, schools, and other recreation centers. The Urbana park district provides recreation programs for the community and has received tax support by referendum to administer them. Champaign and Rantoul have established separate recreation departments by municipal ordinance. These departments are administered by five-man boards appointed by the mayor with the consent of the city council. They serve without pay and determine the department budgets, the programs to be carried out, and the staff to conduct them. In Rantoul the recreation program includes the swimming pool activities; in Urbana and Champaign the swimming pool program is carried out by the park district.

The recreation department programs are carried on throughout the year and are developed to fit the interests and ages of the groups attending. They include games and sports, arts and crafts, singing, dancing, story-telling, and ice skating. In addition to these, the Champaign recreation department conducts a year-round senior citizen recreation program of varied activities.

The University of Illinois offers certain recreational facilities to the general public, such as the ice skating rink on the Urbana campus, the eighteen-hole golf course at Savoy, and hiking and picnic facilities at Allerton Park in Piatt county.

### **Community Parks**

Within Champaign county, almost every town or village has some kind of community park or recreation spot for community use. In many cases these areas are maintained by general municipal funds, or sometimes, in part or in whole, by a local group or organization. There is usually no recreational program developed in connection with these parks. Throughout the county, however, 4H programs, Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs, and Little League, teen-age, and adult baseball con-



tests are carried on. In many communities, public and parochial school playgrounds and equipment are available during vacation periods to children for daytime use. Some schools allow their gymnasiums to be used during the school year for week-end sports programs.

## **Fire Protection**

The fire protection systems for Champaign County fall into three categories: full-time, salaried, tax-supported fire departments; fire protection districts, staffed by volunteers and supported by tax levies, and volunteer fire departments or corporations, usually supported by fees paid by individual homeowners for protection together with money from various fund-raising activities. Fire protection districts automatically cover all fires within their districts. The volunteer fire departments or corporations will often cover all houses in the village in which the department is located while coverage outside village limits is extended only to fee-paying subscribers.

### **Full-time Salaried Departments**

The full-time salaried fire departments in this county include those of Champaign, Urbana, the University of Illinois, and the Chanute Air Force Base. They are staffed by full-time firemen, usually working in shifts with twenty-four hours on the job followed by forty-eight hours off. A mutual aid agreement exists between these four departments. The Chanute equipment is available in emergencies, especially for liquid and volatile fires, anywhere in the county.

In addition to its fire department, the University of Illinois has a safety coordinator who is responsible for the promotion of safety and fire safety in the buildings and various operations of the University and, in the area of off-campus student housing, acts as consultant to the university housing division.

### **Fire Protection Districts**

The map shows the sixteen fire protection districts of the county. There are minor variations in operation within the different districts, but in general they are run along the same lines. All are financed by taxation and all are staffed by volunteer firemen who are trained at the University of Illinois Fire College. Many of the volunteers continue training at monthly meetings held by representatives of the college at the respective fire houses. Most of the districts pay the men a small amount for evening training, and a few also pay a small fee for each fire. The fire-fighters are covered by accident insurance.



1 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STATION  
2 VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT





The number of firemen varies from thirteen to seventeen in the smaller districts to thirty-two in the largest. Most districts favor having the men on call around the clock but a few have organized two on-call shifts. In many districts the men are employed at some distance from the district headquarters and night calls are therefore easier to staff than day calls. A variety of phone and siren systems is used to gather the firemen when needed. All of the districts have mutual aid agreements with nearby districts. The requests for aid must come from the fire chief of a district. The attitude towards covering fires outside the district varies from department to department. A fire department can be liable for suit if it answers a call outside its district and then is needed at the same time within the district.

Variations from this pattern are seen in the Sangamon Valley district which is divided into three departments with separate fire chiefs located in the three towns in the district, Fisher, Foosland, and Dewey. The three departments will attend any major fire together, while a small fire is handled by an individual department. The Fisher department is the largest and the only one with a tanker truck which goes to all fires. The Ogden-Royal district has a fire station in each town and divides its manpower and equipment equally between them. The North Piatt district reaches into Champaign County for a small stretch, less than half a mile wide. The rest of the district is in Piatt County. The stretch in Champaign County is usually served by the Sangamon Valley and Corn Belt districts, but it pays a tax levy to the North Piatt district.

### **Volunteer Fire Departments or Corporations**

The volunteer fire departments or corporations differ from the districts mainly in the manner of financing and the extent of the protection given. While tax-supported districts cover all houses within their districts, the volunteer departments cover only dues-paying members within the areas. Only an unusual department will give fire protection to a non-member. The organization of the volunteer departments also differs from that of the districts. Typically, seven men are elected annually to a village board of directors with the mayor serving as president. This village board usually elects the fire chief and determines the financial organization of the fire department. A typical fee schedule is that of the Bondville Fire Corporation which is financed by yearly dues of \$9 per house within the village boundaries, \$15 for farms outside the boundaries of the village, and \$30 each for a grain elevator and a small manufacturing plant. Other departments are financed through a village fire fund tax plus annual dues from those farms desiring protection.



# Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District

In 1917 the Illinois General Assembly passed a law which enabled the establishment of sanitary districts to serve two or more municipal corporations, which may be townships, or one municipality plus an outlying area. These districts have separate taxing power and independent administration and may provide intercepting sewers and sewage treatment plant facilities. The only such district in Champaign County is the Urbana and Champaign sanitary district which was established in 1922 and began plant operation in 1924. At that time it encompassed 5,456 acres with an assessed valuation \$15,000,000; today its boundaries enclose 10,409 acres with an assessed valuation in excess of \$223,000,000. The present boundaries include nearly all of Champaign and Urbana as well as areas contiguous to the twin cities.

The district is governed by a board of trustees of three members appointed by the circuit court for three-year periods, one appointment terminating each year. The trustees establish policy, control the budget, and set salaries. They appoint an engineer-manager who has charge of all installations and projects, and works with a staff of fourteen permanent employees.

Sanitary district installations presently include a main treatment plant in east Urbana, two small treatment plants—one in southwest Champaign and one in Lake Park subdivision — and fourteen pump stations. The maintenance of all intercepting sewers and sewage treatment plants is supervised by the engineer-manager.

The general corporate tax for operation of the district is at the maximum allowed by law, .083 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. The tax monies are collected by the county collector, who charges a percentage on collections. General obligation bonds can be issued by referendum for capital improvements to the system to the limit of 5% of the equalized assessed valuation of the district.

Annexation to the sanitary district may be by petition to the trustees, or by referendum. The petition is usually used by individuals or for small areas, and the referendum by large areas with many individual property owners. After annexation is approved by the courts, the trustees pass an annexation ordinance which is placed on file with the county clerk. The area can then be connected to available interceptors.



Developers of new subdivisions are presently required by planning ordinances in both Champaign and Urbana to provide lateral sewers in their developments. This makes connections possible either to sanitary district interceptors or adjacent city sewers with a minimum of disturbance to streets and lawns. The sanitary district provides no lateral sewers, but it will construct main interceptors, usually in cooperation with subdividers. An ordinance of January 1, 1963, provides for a sewer connection payment of \$100 for each family unit located in territory outside the sanitary district at the time of the referendum on the 1956 bond issue. This is an attempt to equalize the investment between the older portions of the system and newly annexed territory.

In 1949 the Boneyard Drainage District was separated from the Saline Ditch District and put under the jurisdiction of the Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District. In 1958 a bond issue was passed for improvements on the Boneyard, and for three storm drainage improvements in other drainage areas within the boundaries of the sanitary district. In general, storm sewers are under the control and jurisdiction of the cities, with the sanitary district responsible for the open portions of the Boneyard. A major improvement in the Boneyard drainage facilities in 1963-64 was covered by funds received from the 1958 bond issue.

## Drainage Districts

Illinois state law allows the formation of drainage districts with special taxing powers to build, maintain, and repair drains for agricultural purposes, as well as for sanitary or mining purposes. Assessment for such drainage districts is based on benefit to the land, so that a landowner whose land would not benefit from the proposed drainage structures may not be forced to pay taxes to the district.

Champaign County has at present sixty-six active drainage districts for rural land. These are divided into subdistricts which can tax for laying and maintaining of tiles to drain these smaller areas into the main drainage ditch.

The most common procedure for organizing a drainage district is by petition to the circuit court of a majority of the landowners who own one-third of the land, or one-third of those who own a majority of the land, involved. Another method available for organizing a drainage district is by referendum. The size of drainage districts varies with the size of the watershed, and they may extend beyond a county.



A board of three commissioners, either elected by the people or appointed by the court, governs each drainage district. This board provides for the construction and maintenance of drains and levees. It may enter agreements with individuals or government agencies, acquire property by eminent domain, issue bonds, and levy assessments.

Under the law, drainage districts may establish an annual maintenance assessment by petition to the circuit court, which then issues an order to that effect. In 1964 the Champaign County treasurer collected the levies for 55 drainage districts and 220 subdistricts. The other districts have a special treasurer to collect their taxes.



# FACILITIES AND SERVICES

## Libraries

Several communities in Champaign County support public libraries, some of them financed from the tax levy and some privately endowed. All of them have emerged from Women's Club projects, private subscription groups, or community committees. The facilities of the library at the University of Illinois are also available to citizens of the county.

### **Champaign Public Library**

The Champaign Public Library, at 306 West Church Street, is supported by a city tax. In 1964 this tax was .61 mill, part of which is set aside for a building program. The budget for 1964 was \$60,827. A board of nine directors is appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council, three being appointed each year. The staff consists of three trained librarians and from twelve to fifteen full-time or part-time employees.

The library facilities are available without charge to any property owner in Champaign, any resident of the city, any student in the Champaign schools, or any clergyman from Champaign County. The fee for non-residents is \$3.00 a year. In 1964 there were about 12,500 registered card holders.

The library contains over 67,000 volumes and subscribes to nine newspapers and 167 magazines. It has a record collection with several hundred titles, and there is a collection of prints of well-known paintings. Both records and prints may go out on loan.

The library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturdays it closes at 6 p.m. It is not open on Sundays. The Children's Room is in use from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on school days and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. when there is no school.

A Teen Room is provided with appropriate reading material and study tables, and the Centennial room is devoted to the history of Champaign and Champaign County. An auditorium is available to non-profit organizations without charge.

The Children's Room conducts a summer reading program and occasional story hours. The bookmobile service for the outlying sections of the city is a popular library facility.



### **Urbana Free Library**

The Urbana Free Library, located at 201 South Race Street, is supported by a city tax of .84 mill. The budget for 1964 was \$55,000. A board of nine directors, three appointed each year by the mayor, serves without pay. The staff consists of a trained librarian and about twelve part-time or full-time employees.

The library facilities are free to property owners and residents of Urbana, and to all students in the Urbana schools. The fee for non-residents is \$6.50 a year. In 1964 the library had over 9,500 card holders. The book collection contains over 56,000 volumes and the library subscribes to ten newspapers, 265 magazines and pamphlets. A collection of about 800 records is also available for circulation.

The library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. It closes at 6 p.m. on Saturday and it is never open on Sunday. During June, July, and August, the library closes at 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The Children's Room is open during the school months from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on school days and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the summer it is open every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Teen Room for students from the seventh through the twelfth grade has an attendant on duty two evenings and five afternoons a week. Appropriate reading materials and study tables are provided. The Archives Room contains a collection of local history material and is open by appointment.

During the school year there is a regular children's story hour and during the summer the children's librarian conducts summer reading programs.

### **Rantoul Public Library**

The Rantoul Public Library, at 225 South Century Street, is supported by the village tax which in 1963 provided it with an income of about \$35,000. The library was begun in 1934 as a Women's Club project and in 1951 a new building was erected to house it. It is operated by one full-time librarian and three part-time employees, and an unpaid governing board of six elected members.

The library is free to Rantoul residents and non-residents are charged an annual fee of \$1.00. It contains about 16,000 volumes. The library is open daily except Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

There is a children's room. Community groups may use the basement rooms.



### **St. Joseph — The Swearingen Memorial Library**

The Swearingen Memorial Library, located south of the Methodist Church in St. Joseph, is a privately endowed library governed by a library board elected by the Women's Club. The library was set up over thirty years ago as a Women's Club project and has always been staffed by volunteers. The library building, erected in 1956, is named for its donor, and one room contains gifts from her, and serves as a meeting room for the club.

There are about 5,000 volumes in the library available to residents of St. Joseph and its associated school districts.

The library is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, and from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday.

### **Philo Township Library**

The Philo Township Library is the most recently established of the public libraries in the county. It was organized in 1962 by volunteers and it is staffed by them. It is located in a room on Washington Street next to the Post Office. It is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A township tax levy provided \$2,000 in 1963 for the support of the library. There is a fee of \$1.00 for non-residents of the township. Most of the 3,500 volumes in the library at present were donated.

A regular story hour for children is sponsored and a summer vacation reading program is offered.

### **Ogden — Rose Library**

The Rose Library, located in the Town Hall, is named for the donor of the land on which the Town Hall is built. The gift had the provision that a room be reserved for the establishment of a library and some money for this purpose was provided. The library is governed by a six member board, two members being elected every two years for six year terms. The total budget, mostly from taxes, is \$500. One part-time librarian is employed. Use of the library is free to residents and non-residents. The library is open Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m.

### **University of Illinois Library**

The library at the University of Illinois is the fifth largest library in the nation and is the third largest university library. It contains over 3,500,000 volumes. The library is open for the use of the public, but books may not be removed without an identification card issued in the Reference Room. It is primarily a research library.



# Transportation

## Highways

The Champaign County highway department is responsible for maintaining approximately 75 miles of county highways. About ten miles of roads were built and are maintained by the county from motor fuel tax funds. The remaining 65 miles are maintained from the county highway tax. The majority of the roads have an oiled surface. When new county roads are constructed with a rigid surface, they are maintained by state funds. The county highway department also supervises the construction of new county roads by taking and letting bids, and by making surveys. It is responsible for grass and weed control along these highways.

The superintendent of the county highway department is appointed by the county board of supervisors, and approved by the state. An Illinois law now requires all new appointees for this position to be registered professional engineers and to pass an examination administered by the State Department of Public Works and Buildings.

## Railroads

Passenger service in the Champaign-Urbana area is handled chiefly by the Illinois Central Railroad which runs from Chicago to New Orleans, providing four trains each way daily. Another train each day travels to Jacksonville, Florida, and every other day there is a direct run to and from Miami, Florida. The Florida trains are routed over several southern railroad lines.

The Wabash Railroad, which has its ticket office at the Union Bus Station in Champaign, provides twice a day service between St. Louis, Missouri, and Detroit, Michigan. The station is in Tolono, eleven miles south of Champaign, and bus service is provided between Champaign and the station.

Freight service north and south is handled by the Illinois Central Railroad. The New York Central system has freight service east and west from Peoria to Indianapolis. The Illinois Terminal Railroad also handles freight west to Springfield and Peoria, and operates for about twenty miles to the east.

The county is now crossed by two federal interstate expressways, Route 57 running north and south, and Route 74 running east and west.



## Buses

The Union Bus Station on Walnut Street in Champaign and the Urbana Bus Station on North Broadway in Urbana provide similar services for three out-of-town bus companies. Greyhound buses run north and south from Chicago to New Orleans; Illini Swallow Lines provide services from Peoria to Indianapolis; and Crown Transit Lines, Inc. run from Champaign to Decatur and Springfield. Charter and parcel express service is provided by each company.

The Champaign-Urbana City Lines, Inc., which is responsible for the city buses, also provides charter service within the state of Illinois.

## Airlines

The University of Illinois Willard Airport in Savoy, five miles south of Champaign, is serviced by Ozark Air Lines. It provides passenger, mail, and freight service to three direct market areas — Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis — as well as flights to Springfield. There is limousine service to the airport from Champaign and Urbana.

The University of Illinois gives flight instruction to persons enrolled in the University, provides planes for university personnel on university business, and provides hangar space for private planes.

Illini Aviation, Inc., on Route 45 north of Urbana, is privately owned. It provides flight training, charter service, and rentals. It also has the only air ambulance service available locally.

Astro Inc., with an office on South Neil Street in Champaign, is chiefly concerned with research flying and training and it provides some charter and air taxi service.



Willard Airport at Savoy



# Newspapers, Radio, and Television

## Newspapers

### Daily Papers

#### *Champaign-Urbana Courier*

An evening paper published in Urbana with a Sunday morning edition.

Owned by the Lindsay-Schaub newspaper chain.

Serves East Central Illinois, with a circulation of about 30,000.

#### *The News-Gazette*

An evening paper published in Champaign with a Sunday morning edition.

Owned by Helen M. Stevick and Marajen S. Chinigo.

Serves East Central Illinois, with a circulation of about 30,000.

#### *The Daily Illini*

A morning paper published five times a week, Tuesday through Saturday when the University of Illinois is in session during the fall and winter terms. Published as a weekly during the period of the summer session.

Owned by the Illinois Publishing Corporation.

Serves primarily the campus area, with a mailing list throughout the United States.

### Weekly Papers

Broadlands

Chanute

Fisher

Homer

Mahomet

Ogden

Philo

Rantoul

Sidney

St. Joseph

Tolono

*The Broadland News*

*Chanute Wings*

*The Fisher Reporter*

*The Homer Enterprise*

*The Mahomet Sucker-State*

*The Ogden Courier*

*Philo Booster*

*The Rantoul Press*

*The Sidney Times*

*The St. Joseph Record*

*Tolono-Southside Journal*

## Radio

WDWS (AM) 1400 kc 1 KW (day) .25 KW (night).

Studio address: Route 45, Champaign (two miles south).

Owner: **The News-Gazette.**

Hours: 6 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.



Programs: Columbia Broadcasting System network programs; local news; music; sports, including University of Illinois games.

WDWS (FM) 97.5 mc 27 KW

Same as WDWS (AM) except broadcasting hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WILL (AM) 580 kc 5 KW

Studio address: 228 Gregory Hall, Urbana.

Owner: University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Hours: 7 a.m. to sunset on week days; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Programs: statewide programming of educational and cultural discussions; music, primarily serious, including recorded student and faculty recitals; farm news; university sports.

WILL (FM) 90.9 mc 300 KW

Same as WILL (AM) except broadcasting hours are from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, none on Sunday.

WKID (AM) 1580 kc .25 KW

Studio address: Philo Road, Urbana.

Owner: WKID Broadcasting Company.

Hours: sunrise to sunset.

Programs: Mutual System network programs; local news; music; sports.

WLRW (FM) 94 mc 20 KW

Studio address: 2424 Skyline Drive, Champaign.

Owner: Modern Broadcasters.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Programs: music; news.

WRTL (AM) 1460 kc .5 KW

Studio address: Route 136, Rantoul (3 miles west).

Owner: W. R. Brown and D. R. Williams.

Hours: 7 a.m. to sunset.

Programs: news; music; sports, markets.

WPGU (Student Carrier Current) 640 kc

Transmitted to University of Illinois dormitories only.

Studio address: 1241 South Euclid, Champaign.

Owner: Illini Publishing Company.

Hours: 24 hours daily

Programs: news; music.

## Television

WCHU Channel 33 5.5 KW visual 2.96 KW aural

Studio address: Inman Hotel, Champaign.

Owner: Plains Television Corporation.



Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to midnight or later; Saturday, 9 a.m. to midnight or later; Sunday, 11 or 11:30 a.m. to midnight or later.

Programs: National Broadcasting Company network programs; local news and community interest programs.

WCIA Channel 3      100 KW visual      50.1 KW aural

Studio address: 509 South Neil Street, Champaign.

Owner: Midwest Television Corporation.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 6:55 a.m. to midnight or later; Saturday, 6.25 a.m. to midnight or later; Sunday, 8:55 a.m. to midnight or later.

Programs: Columbia Broadcasting System network programs; local news and community interest programs.

WILL Channel 12      45.7 KW visual      22.9 KW aural

Studio address: 228 Gregory Hall.

Owner: University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 6 p.m. to approximately 10:30, and some daytime classroom lectures. Channel 12 News and Weekly Schedule will be mailed upon request.

Programs: National Education Television network programs; educational and cultural programs.

WTVP Channel 70      1000 KW visual (radiated) 500 KW aural (radiated)

Studio address: Southside Drive, Decatur, Ill.

Owner: Metromedia, Inc.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:25 a.m. through midnight; Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. through midnight.

Programs: American Broadcasting Company network programs; Metropolitan Broadcasting Television Specials; local news.

## Civil Defense

The purpose of the civil defense organization is threefold: to provide shelter from man-made and natural disasters; to train individuals to protect themselves and their families during any type of emergency; to give direction in time of emergency through existing agencies.

The state director of Illinois civil defense is appointed by the governor. Champaign County is one of the 14 counties directed by a Mutual Aid Area Coordinator hired by the state on a civil service status. The county civil defense committee, composed of eight members from the county board of supervisors, appoints the county civil defense director. He



and his secretary are the only paid civil defense workers in the county. The budget for the county program in 1964 was \$20,000, half of which was met by federal matching funds.

The University of Illinois civil defense office is directly under the state, but it correlates its work with the county program.

The Champaign County communication set-up is one of the best in the state. There are 22 two-way battery-controlled FM radios, hooked up from the control center in the county defense office to local units and paid for by local communities. There are 29 radiological monitor stations throughout the county, paid for by federal funds. There 60 two-way FM radios, owned by ham operators, and 300 "citizen" band sets (limited frequency sets such as car radios). The county control room is in direct communication with the state civil defense office in Chicago, the District 10 state police, and the county sheriff's office.

The county has a fully-equipped rescue truck and a 200-bed portable emergency hospital. The county organization annually conducts five training schools: in communication, radiological work, rescue, medical self-help, and shelter management. There is also a Women's Civil Defense Council with a program designed to inform the public about the civil defense program.

Most communities in the county have civil defense directors. These are unpaid volunteers appointed by the mayors or city councils. There are 115 marked public shelters scattered in the county, capable of accommodating 40,000 people. Thirty-six of these shelters are stocked with sufficient food and water to maintain life for two weeks. The food consists of wheat-flour crackers and carbohydrate supplement. Sanitation kits, medical kits, and radiation detection kits are also included. Seventeen of these stocked shelters are in the city of Champaign.

The Champaign County Civil Defense Office is in the Court House Annex, 204 East Elm Street, Urbana.



# ELECTIONS AND VOTING PROCEDURES

## Elections

The legislature of each state determines the rules under which elections within the state are conducted, and it delegates responsibility for their conduct to local officials within the various governmental units. In Illinois the general requirement is that a voter must be a citizen of the United States who is 21 years old and has lived in the state for one year, in his county for ninety days and in his precinct for thirty days. This holds for all elections. In other respects, including registration, the regulations vary from one kind of election unit to another and from one form of local government to another. The result is a complicated pattern from which Illinois voters fashion their democracy.

Statewide primary and general elections are held in Illinois to elect certain party officials and to nominate and elect government officials at the county, state, and national levels. Issues of public interest may also be brought before the voters at these elections. The election authority for the primary and general elections in Champaign County is the county clerk. He is responsible for the registration of voters throughout the county, for maintaining up-to-date registration lists, for the printing and displaying of ballots, and for providing and maintaining election supplies. He is also required by law to train, examine, and certify the judges of election.

The county board of supervisors has certain responsibilities in these elections. Upon recommendation of the county chairmen of the two national parties the board appoints the judges of election for each precinct in the county: three judges from the party casting the larger number of votes in that precinct in the last general election and two judges from the party casting the second largest vote in that election. The county board is also responsible for securing precinct polling places and for maintaining and delivering the voting booths.

In 1964 Champaign County had 107 precincts. Of these, 34 were in the city of Champaign, 22 were in Urbana, and 6 were in the village of Rantoul.

### **The Primary Election**

The statewide primary is a party election. It is held on the second Tuesday in April of even-numbered years and is conducted in accordance



with the state primary law. It is held to nominate party candidates for county, state, and national offices to be voted on in the general election. At the same time each party elects members to its county and state central committees. In presidential years voters also elect, at the primary, delegates and alternate delegates from their congressional districts to their national party conventions. Champaign County is in the 22nd congressional district.

Voters at the primary, however, do not nominate all the candidates who will appear on the ballot in the general election. Nominations for trustees of the University of Illinois, delegates-at-large and alternates-at-large to the national party conventions, and judges of the courts running for the first time are nominated in state party conventions. Candidates who do not have the official backing of their party may be placed on the general election ballot by petition of a designated number of qualified voters.

The Illinois primary is a "closed primary" which means that a voter receives a ballot from the party of his choice when he goes to the polls. That party choice is recorded on the voter's registration card when he asks for his ballot. The law indicates that he may not vote in the primary of any other party, nor sign the petition for a candidate of another party, for 23 months after he has voted in a primary. Registration is required in this election.

### **The General Election**

The statewide general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. At this time voters elect officers from the candidates who were nominated in the primary or by party convention or by petition. Changes in the state constitution which have been proposed by the General Assembly and propositions petitioned by the voters or the county board may be voted on at this time. City and district propositions are usually voted on separately because of differences in voting districts. Registration is required at this election.

### **Municipal Elections**

In general, city and village primaries to nominate city officials, where held, are in February or March and elections are in April. State law determines the dates according to the size of the community and the type of government it has adopted. Candidates in these elections may run under national or local party labels or no party labels. The city or village clerk is the election authority in municipal elections. He receives petitions, provides the ballots, and arranges for polling places and election judges. Voters in municipal elections must meet the general voting requirements but need not be registered to vote.



### **School Board Elections**

Local school board elections are held every year on the second Saturday in April between the hours of 12 noon and 7:00 P.M. This date may be changed by local ordinance to the first Tuesday in April to coincide with the election of some other local government unit. These elections in Champaign County are non-partisan and the school board is the election authority. It provides ballots, polling places and election judges. Propositions, such as bond issues, are voted on at the discretion of the school board. Registration is required in all school elections.

Members of the county board of school trustees are elected for staggered terms every two years at the time of the statewide primary. Candidates petition to run and are listed on a separate non-partisan ballot. Registration is required.

### **Township Elections**

Township elections are held to elect township officers, including supervisors and assistant supervisors. These elections are partisan; the candidates are nominated by party caucus. The elections are held on the first Tuesday of April in odd-numbered years and the township clerk is responsible for their conduct. A voter must be registered to vote in them.

### **Park District Elections**

Park district board members are elected on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years. Their terms are staggered and registration is required for these elections. The park board is responsible for the conduct of the elections.

### **Sanitary District Elections**

Members of the board of sanitary districts are not elected but are appointed by the judge of the court within whose jurisdiction the district lies. However, the sanitary district does submit certain issues for referendum and is responsible for the conduct of these elections. No registration is required.

### **Judicial Elections**

In Illinois, judges and associate judges of the circuit court and judges of the appellate court and the supreme court are nominated, the first time they run, at political party judicial conventions. These conventions are held in the order of superiority, from highest to lowest court, during July and August preceding a general election at which judicial elections occur. The term of office for supreme court and appellate court



judges is ten years and for circuit judges, six years. After their first term judges may run for re-election without opposition and without a party label, and only on the question of whether they shall be retained in office for another term. Registration is required to vote for members of the courts.

### **Special Elections**

Special elections are held to fill vacancies, to vote on propositions, and to elect delegates to a constitutional convention. They may be held at any time upon request of a governing body or by petition of the people. They are often held in connection with the next regular election if certain time limits set by state law are met. Registration is required only if state law requires registration for the election which is replaced by the special election.

## **Voting Procedures**

### **Voting Requirements**

Registration in Illinois is required for all elections at the county level and above, and for township, park district, and school elections. Registration is permanent unless a voter moves, changes his name, or does not vote once in four years. A change of address within the county, or a change of name, must be reported to the county clerk at once in order to maintain the rights of a registered voter. Change of address to another county requires re-registration.

Registration is open to anyone who is a United States citizen, 21 years of age, who has lived in the state for one year, in the county for 90 days and in the precinct for 30 days. No party designation is required at the time of registration.

A qualified person may register at any time except during a period of 28 days before and 2 days after an election for which registration is required. He must register in person at the office of the county clerk or at the office of one of his deputies. Special arrangements are made for physically disabled persons to register.

Qualified voters from another county or state who have lived in Champaign County as short a time as 60 days preceding a presidential election may vote for president and vice president in the office of the county clerk without being registered. They must apply there for a ballot not less than 30 days before such an election. They may cast their vote for those two candidates on a special presidential ballot after their application has been processed in accordance with the law.



## Voting Procedures

For most elections (school elections are an exception) the precinct polling places are open on election day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. When a voter enters the polling place he must state his name and address to the election judges and sign an application for a ballot. Sometimes there will be more than one ballot and each one must bear the initials of an election judge. The marking of the ballot must be done in the privacy of a voting booth and should not take longer than ten minutes.

The ONLY acceptable mark on a ballot is an X placed within the square in front of the candidate's name or in the circle at the top of a party column:



Any other kind of mark or an erasure invalidates the ballot. If a voter spoils his ballot he should return it to the election judge and ask for a new one.

In the statewide primary a voter has a party ballot and votes by putting an X in the square before the name of each candidate for whom he wishes to vote.

In the statewide general election the voter has an all-party ballot. He may vote a straight party ticket or he may vote a split ticket and thus divide his votes among the parties on the ballot. There are two ways to do either one:

To vote a straight party ticket the voter places an X in the square in front of the name of each of his party's candidates. Or, he places an X in the party circle at the top of his party's column.

To vote a split ticket the voter may mark an X in the square before the name of each candidate for whom he wishes to vote, regardless of party (but being careful not to vote for the same office in both parties). Or he marks an X in the circle at the top of his party's column and an X in the square before the name of each candidate he wishes to select in the other party columns. The X before a name has precedence over the X in the party circle.

In voting on public measures or an amendment to the constitution the X must be placed in the box opposite the word "yes" or the word "no", whichever indicates the will of the voter. The vote will not be counted if any other mark is made.



To vote for someone whose name is not on the ballot a voter may write that name correctly at the end of the list for the proper office, make a square to the left of the name, and place an X within the square. No other procedure for a write-in candidate is acceptable.

After marking his ballots the voter must fold each one separately so that his marks are on the inside and the judge's initials are outside and return them all to the judge who will drop them into the ballot box. The judge cannot accept a ballot which is not properly initialed.

### **Absentee Voting**

A registered voter who cannot go to the polls on election day, because of absence from the county, illness, or religious observances, may apply for a ballot to the county clerk. This must be done not more than 30 days nor less than 5 days before the date of the election. If he applies in person a voter may vote at the county clerk's office not more than 30 nor less than 3 days before the election.

A member of the armed forces or a civilian employee of the United States serving outside the country, and his spouse and dependents, may apply to the county clerk for ballots not more than 100 nor less than 5 days before an election. They need not be registered to vote, but the application must be made by the person wishing to vote or by a member of his family.

### **Cumulative Voting**

In order to assure that the minority party in each of the state's 59 representative districts will be represented in the General Assembly, Illinois has developed a unique procedure called "cumulative voting". Three representatives are elected from each representative district and each voter has three votes to distribute among them. A voter may give his three votes to one candidate by voting for only one person; he may give one and half votes to each of two candidates by voting for only two; he may give two votes to one candidate and one to another by indicating the number at the side of each of two names; he may give one vote to each of three candidates by voting for three. Cumulative voting is used in the primary and in the general election. However, in the general election a voter may vote in both parties for representatives so long as he uses a total of only three votes for that office.



# OPEN MEETINGS OF LOCAL AND COUNTY TAXING BODIES

## **City Governments**

Champaign City Council — 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., City Building, 2nd floor, Council Room.  
Urbana City Council — 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m., Nov. 1 to May 1; 7:30 p.m., May 1 to Nov. 1, City Building, Council Room.  
Rantoul City Council — 2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., City Building.

## **Health Meetings**

Burnham City Hospital Board — 3rd Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., conference room of hospital.  
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District — 2nd Wednesdays, 10 a.m., 505 So. 5th Street, Champaign.  
Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District — 2nd Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m., administration bldg., Sewage Treatment Works, Urbana.  
Champaign County Tuberculosis Sanatorium (Outlook Sanatorium) — 2nd Wednesdays, 7 p.m., at the sanatorium.

## **Park and Recreation Board Meetings**

Champaign Park District Board — 2nd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., conference room, park district office.  
Champaign Recreation Board — 1st Thursdays, time and place varies.  
Urbana Park and Recreation Board — 2nd Mondays, 7:00 p.m., park district office.  
Rantoul Park Board — once a month at the discretion of the board.

## **Public Libraries**

Champaign — 2nd Wednesdays, 4 p.m., library building.  
Urbana — 2nd Mondays (except August), 7:30 p.m., library building.  
Rantoul — called meetings, library building.

## **School Board Meetings**

Champaign — 2nd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Administration Building, 703 South New Street.  
Urbana — 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Thornburn School.  
Rantoul City School Board — 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., office of superintendent.



Rantoul Township High School District — 2nd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., (8:00 daylight), high school building.

### **Town Meetings**

City of Champaign — 1st Tuesday in April, 2 p.m., council room of City Building.

Cunningham — 1st Tuesday in April, 2:00 p.m., council room of Urbana City Building.

Rantoul — 1st Tuesday in April, 1:00 p.m., town hall.

### **Township Board of Auditors Meetings**

City of Champaign — 2nd Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., 603 So. Randolph.

Cunningham Town Board — 2nd Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Urbana City Building.

Rantoul — last Tuesday of March and first Tuesday of September, 7:30 p.m., office of supervisor, town hall.

### **Champaign County Board of Review** (of tax assessments)

Meets continuously, 8:30 a.m., to 4:00 p.m., beginning July 1, until business is finished, Court House, Urbana.

### **Champaign County Board of Supervisors**

Five meetings a year: regular meeting in June (2nd Mon.); annual meeting in September (2nd Tues.); special meetings in December (1st Tues.), March (1st Tues.), and April (4th Tues.). Meetings are held in board of supervisors' room, court house annex, 10:00 a.m. A recessed session of the September meeting is held in November at the regular time and place.











